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YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

# ILLINOIS STATE PARKS

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# Welcome

Welcome to Illinois, a state offering a diverse landscape, rich in natural resources and abundant recreation opportunities. Many unique and beautiful places await you in the Land of Lincoln. From Illinois Beach and the Chicago lakefront on the Lake Michigan shore, to the wonders of Starved Rock and the fertile soils and waterways of the heart of the state, to the vast forests and world-renowned wetlands of the southernmost part of the state, Illinois has much to offer.

There is no better way to appreciate this diversity than by enjoying the recreational opportunities offered by Illinois' state parks, fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas, lakes, rivers and forests. They are ideal destinations for fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, boating, camping, hiking, picnics, bicycling and horseback riding. They are also places visitors can go to simply relax.

This guide to Illinois State Parks, made in partnership with *American Park Network*, is provided by the Department of Natural Resources to enhance your enjoyment of all that outdoor Illinois has to offer. It is made possible by the support of sponsors whose messages appear inside.

You'll find this booklet useful as you plan an eventful day trip to a state park picnic area, a weekend at a state park lodge, a hike in a state forest, a ride on a state trail or hunting and fishing trips to a state fish and wildlife area.

Illinois has so much to offer and the IDNR is striving to make planning



Illinois DNR

Marc Miller, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

your special getaway hassle free. You'll find a new and improved website at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov), which is much more interactive and easier to navigate. You'll find anything you need from buying a hunting and fishing license to reserving a campsite through our new online reservation system at [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com).

Once again, I want to welcome you to Illinois, where we invite you to enjoy the natural treasures and exceptional recreation opportunities you will find throughout our state.

Sincerely,

Marc Miller, Director  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

A serious journey demands  
*SERIOUS TECHNOLOGY*

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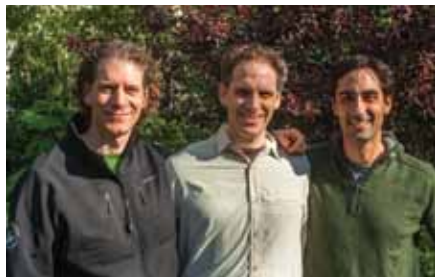


## What's New!

Lately, I've noticed that some of my happiest moments are spent in the company of children, most notably my nephews, Blake, Brody and, the newest addition to our family, Jason. Smiles come quickly in a child's world, where wonder and discovery abound. With all the pressures and stress we face as adults, it's important to remember that we all have the capacity to derive pleasure from simple things. Perhaps we just need to take a moment to hit the "pause button" and see the world again through the eyes of children.

In my view, there's no better place to find your inner child than in parks. Since taking the reigns at *American Park Network*, I've had the privilege to visit numerous parks, some in person and many more virtually, often seeing them through the eyes of others. I urge you to find the joy in small things by spending more time in our parks. We created *Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder™* — a free mobile app with information on 60,000+ parks — to help you discover new places and share your experiences. I hope this will be your "go-to" source for planning your next adventure and that you'll take the lead to help others find wonder in the outdoors.

Speaking of leaders, as I write this, our managing editor Kelly just celebrated her fifth anniversary as a member of our



Mark, Joel & Alex — partners in the parks.

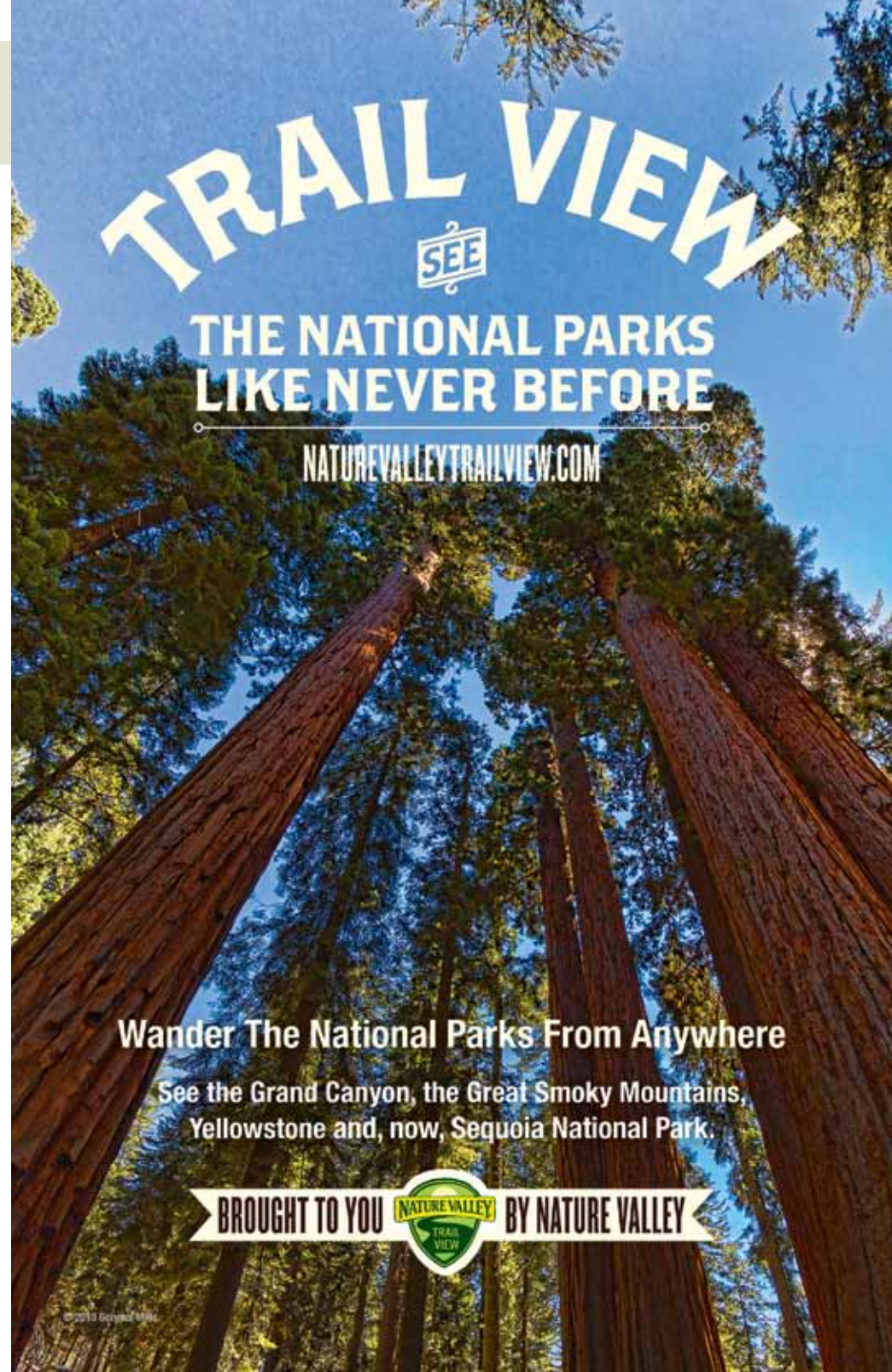
team. Her watchful eyes, hard work and dedication are largely responsible for the quality of the guide that's in your hands right now. Of course, it was a team effort, and everyone whose name appears in the masthead (along with many other partners and contributors) played a key role; however, I think it's important to acknowledge the emergence of a new leader.

We all benefit from leaders who help show us the way. I say, let the child in each of us be our guide. As I'm constantly reminded by my nephews, there's wonder and adventure to be found everywhere, we just have to focus on what's important... and then take a moment to breathe deep. What better place to do so than in a park!

mark@americanparknetwork.com

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Special thanks to Michelle Silver and everyone at the Department of Natural Resources for their invaluable assistance. (Cover Photo: Portrait of a majestic American bald eagle, a species often spotted in Illinois' state parks.) Eagles now live in the state year-round. Learn more about Illinois' eagles at [www2.illinois.gov/gov/eagles](http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/eagles).

For answers to all your questions, go to  
**OhRanger.com**



# Plan Your Visit

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) manages 309 state parks and recreational sites on more than 475,000 acres of land. The Illinois State Museum system, with five public facilities statewide showcasing Illinois art and natural history, is part of the IDNR. Each park offers its own variety of activities and scenery. For more information, visit [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov).

## Planning Your Trip

This visitors guide divides the state into five regions: Northwest, Northeast, East-Central, West-Central and South. You will find general information for all the regions in the first part of this guide.

## General Information

Most IDNR sites are open year-round and closed only on Christmas and New Year's Day. Some smaller sites are closed seasonally. Visitors may want to call before visiting parks. Statewide attractions, sponsored by the IDNR and other agencies, are identified by brown-colored signs along the highways.

## Highway Tourist Information Centers

As you travel the state, stop at an Illinois highway welcome center for information and brochures. Plan which parks you would like to visit. Please see the center-fold map for locations.

## Special Services &

Park activities and facilities accessible to visitors with disabilities are indicated throughout this guide by the & symbol.

In accordance with the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, the IDNR is working to expand the number of activities for visitors with disabilities in various recreational areas. For information about special services, call (618) 949-3305. For hearing-impaired callers, the IDNR can also receive calls from a TTY: call the text telewriter at (217) 782-9175.

## Camping

Select state parks and recreational areas offer advance reservations. IDNR and Reserve America have joined together to bring camping, cabin, group camp and shelter reservations to the web. To reserve a site, visit [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com). To find a campground, simply click "Find a Camping Spot" and select the state of Illinois.

Reservations for campsites can only be made online. Reservations for regular campsites and group campsites require a \$5 non-refundable reservation fee and payment of the full camping and utility fees when the reservation is made. Shelter reservation fees are \$25 (except on Saturdays at Spitler Woods State Natural Area, where the shelter fee is \$150). Campsites can be reserved for a maximum of 14 nights over a 30-day period and reservations must be made five or seven days before the campsite is needed. Reservations for holiday weekends may require a two- or three-night minimum stay reservation. Some facilities require a three-night minimum stay for Columbus Day.

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### Illinois Department of Natural Resources

#### General Information

Springfield	(217) 782-6302
All DNR Information for the Hearing-Impaired	(217) 782-9175 (TTY)
Chicago Area	(312) 814-2070

Website	<a href="http://dnr.illinois.gov">dnr.illinois.gov</a>
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Special Events/State Fairs	(217) 785-8955
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DNR Direct (Automated License System)	(888) 6PERMIT (673-7648)
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Boat/Snowmobile Registration	(217) 557-0180 or (800) 382-1696
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Deer/Turkey/Dove/Pheasant/Goose/Duck Permit	(217) 782-7305
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Fishing/Hunting License	(888) 6PERMIT (673-7648)
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Environmental/Sporting Series License Plate Information	(800) 252-8980 (Illinois only)
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Safety Courses	(800) 832-2599 (Illinois only)
Hunting/Boating/Snowmobiling/Trapping	(217) 557-9206 (Out of state)

Educational Services	(217) 524-4126
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Illinois State Museum	(217) 782-7386
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### Other Important Numbers

Acres for Wildlife	(217) 782-6384
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Ecosystem partnerships	(217) 782-7940
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IDNR Education Section	(217) 524-4126
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IDNR Internships	(217) 785-8591
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Illinois Historic Preservation Agency	(217) 782-4836
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Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger Program	(217) 785-5091
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Illinois Tourist Information	(800) 2CONNECT (226-6632)
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Poacher Hotline	(877) 2DNRLAW (236-7529)
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Publications Request	(217) 782-7498
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Road Conditions (Recording)	(217) 785-5091
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Volunteer Network	(217) 785-5091
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World Shooting & Recreational Complex	(618) 295-2700
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## PARK REGULATIONS

### Alcohol Restrictions

Several parks have complete or partial alcohol bans. Call ahead for information.

### Artifacts

Report to the office any prehistoric or historic artifacts you find. Removal of resources, including fossils and artifacts, is prohibited.

## Boating

Your boat must be registered and titled prior to use. Call (217) 557-0180 or (800) 382-1696 for more information.

## Fires

Never build campfires on dry and windy days or leave them unattended. Only use designated fire rings or a camp stove so fires can't spread. Transporting firewood from outside the park into them is strictly regulated. For additional details, visit [IllinoisEAB.com](http://IllinoisEAB.com) and [emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info).

## Fishing & Hunting

Regulation digests are available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold, or by calling the IDNR clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498. Hunting

and fishing licenses are available at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov). Please see the "Things To Do" chapter for more information.

## Hiking

Stay on designated trails. Going off-path harms vegetation and causes erosion, requiring additional maintenance.

## Litter

Properly dispose of any litter and use recycling bins where available.

## Pets

Always keep your pet on a leash.

## Snowmobiling

Your machine must be registered. Call (217) 557-0180 or (866) 867-3542 for more information.

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## ILLINOIS LODGING &amp; DINING

Whether you are coming to Illinois for a week-long vacation, a weekend getaway or a day trip, you can enjoy comfortable accommodations and fine dining at eight Illinois state park locations. The **Civilian Conservation Corps** built some of the park lodges and cabins in the 1930s. Since then, all of the historic structures have been refurbished. The IDNR has also built additional accommodations. From family dining to a romantic dinner for two, lodge restaurants provide a welcoming atmosphere. The dress code is casual in all park restaurants. All facilities accept major credit cards and traveler's checks. For more information, please visit [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov).

## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS



☼ **Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center** was built in part by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and is located in a park well-known for its scenic river views, waterfalls, glacier-carved canyons and hiking trails. Guests return year after year to hike, picnic, bike, fish, boat, camp and cross-country ski in the winter. (800) 868-ROCK (7625) • (815) 667-4211 • [starvedrocklodge.com](http://starvedrocklodge.com) ♿

**AMENITIES** 112 guest rooms with 17 rooms featuring wood-burning fireplaces, full baths, TV, DVD, WiFi, coffeemaker, hair dryer and telephones. Lodge amenities include indoor pool, children's pool, gift shop, spa, boat ramps, canoe rentals and trolley rides.

**Starved Rock Main Dining Room** is a family-style restaurant whose specialties include a spectacular Sunday brunch, kids' menu and family feasts. ☎ BLD

**Starved Rock Cafe** serves coffee, pastries, sandwiches, snacks and travel necessities. BLD

**Back Door Lounge** boasts three large flat screen TVs and year-round entertainment. LD

**The Veranda** offers brats, burgers, pizza and more with great views of the Illinois River. LD



**White Pines Inn** is crafted from stone and timber and nestled under in the heart of Black Hawk Indian country under majestic white pines, making it seem forgotten by time. Discover the historic lodge restaurant, pioneer guest cabins, delightful country gift shop and entertaining dinner theatre that make up the historic inn. (815) 946-3817 • [whitepinesinn.com](http://whitepinesinn.com)

**AMENITIES** 25 cozy, one-room cabins with forest views, log queen beds with full-size trundles, private bathrooms, flat screen TVs, DVD, gas-log fireplaces and AC/heat.

**The Lodge Restaurant** offers hearty American fare including the "Paul Bunyan" breakfast, chicken pot pie, soups and ribs. Live dinner theatre is in adjacent banquet room. BLD

## EAST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

**The Resort at Eagle Creek** is nestled on the west shore of Lake Shelbyville in Eagle Creek State Park. Currently undergoing renovations, they anticipate reopening in 2014.

**AMENITIES** Offers golf course and swimming. Call ahead for information (217) 756-5555.

**KEY** B Breakfast L Lunch D Dinner ☼ Open during winter ☎ Reservations suggested.



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## ILLINOIS LODGING &amp; DINING (CONTINUED)

## NORTHEAST ILLINOIS



❁ **Illinois Beach Resort and Conference Center** is nestled amid 4,100 acres of pristine Lake Michigan shoreline inside Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park and offers hiking, fishing and swimming. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just interested in a quiet walk along some of the Midwest's most scenic beaches, this is the place for you. (847) 625-7300 • or 866-IL-BEACH • [ilresorts.com](http://ilresorts.com) &

**AMENITIES** 92 guest rooms including four suites, WiFi, banquet and conference facilities, fitness center and spa, indoor pool, gift shop, game room and a nearby 18-hole golf course.

**Lakeside Dining Room** serves world class culinary delights year-round. Dine al fresco on the expansive, outdoor patio with views of the lake. ☎ **B L D**

**Sandpiper Lounge** offers guests the chance to end the evening with a cocktail and spectacular views of Lake Michigan.

## WEST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS



❁ **Carlyle Lakefront Cottages** are perfect for anyone who wants to camp without sacrificing the comforts of home. The cottages overlook Carlyle Lake at Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area, a popular destination for fishing, boating, sailing, swimming, hiking, biking, hunting and camping. A three-night minimum stay is required during peak season and holidays. (877) 342-8862 • [carlylelakecottages.com](http://carlylelakecottages.com)

**AMENITIES** Kitchenette, satellite TV, gas log fireplace, nearby golf course, public swimming pool, on-site playground, picnic shelter, barbecue grills, courtesy boat docks and a beach.

**Carlyle Lakefront Camp Store** offers a limited dining menu, camping supplies, grocery items, a bait shop and a laundry facility. **B L D**



❁ **Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center** is the centerpiece of wooded Pere Marquette State Park. The lodge is situated among 8,000 acres of land overlooking the Illinois River. Its rustic **Great Room** boasts a 700-ton stone fireplace and a life-size chessboard. Pere Marquette is a favorite for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, horseback riding and picnicking. (618) 786-2331 • [pmlodge.net](http://pmlodge.net) &

**AMENITIES** 50 lodge rooms and 22 stone cabins with private bath, TV, telephone, conference center, indoor swimming pool, spa, playground, gift shop, class A campground facilities, year-round activities and events, board games, 25-mile bike trail, canoe and kayak rental.

**The Lodge** offers a casual dining experience combining the best of Midwestern home-style fare with rustic elegance. The full service dining room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. There is a cocktail lounge and wine tasting room on the premises. **B L D**

**KEY** **B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner ❁ Open during winter ☎ Reservations suggested.



## ILLINOIS LODGING &amp; DINING (CONTINUED)

## SOUTH ILLINOIS



❁ **Cave-in-Rock Lodge** is located in historic Cave-in-Rock State Park, adjacent to the Shawnee National Forest. It takes its name from a large cave once used as a hiding place by pirates who preyed on Ohio River travelers until the 1830s. The lodge offers easy access to boating and great fishing, and has several marked and unmarked trails to enjoy the park's splendor. (618) 289-4545 • [caveinrockkaylors.com](http://caveinrockkaylors.com)

**AMENITIES** Four duplex cabins with eight suites, private balconies, deluxe bath, satellite TV, kitchenette, dining area, wet bar, gift shop, nearby playgrounds, boating access and picnic shelters.

**Cave-in-Rock Restaurant** serves southern specialties, including a catfish and fried chicken buffet on Sundays. Great homemade desserts. **B L D**



❁ **Giant City Lodge** is a rustic lodge named for the area's unusual rock formations that resemble the towering walls and streets of a mythical giant's city. The lodge and the park are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A great spot for hiking, horseback riding, fishing (bass, crappie and bluegill), boating, camping, repelling and picnicking. (618) 457-4921 • [giantcitylodge.com](http://giantcitylodge.com)

**AMENITIES** 34 cabins with forest views, full baths, TV, telephones, refrigerator, coffeemaker, meeting rooms, swimming pool, kiddie pool, stables, gift shop and Class A campground.

**Bald Knob Dining Room** serves excellent fare and is well known for its family-style, home-fried chicken. There is also a cocktail lounge on the premises. ☎ **B L D**



❁ **Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center** is situated on Rend Lake in beautiful Wayne Fitzgerald State Park. This fine recreation area is popular for biking, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, tennis, trap shooting, horseback riding and birdwatching. Hunting, fishing and golfing packages and boat rentals are available. (800) 633-3341 • (618) 629-2211 • [rendlakeresort.com](http://rendlakeresort.com) &

**AMENITIES** 105 rooms and cabins, full baths, TV, phone, WiFi, refrigerator, fireplace, spa, conference facilities, outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, playground, field dog trial grounds, boat/bicycle rentals, convenience store, gift shop, fuel service and boat docking.

**Windows Restaurant** is a full-service restaurant that uses the freshest, top quality ingredients. Specialties include seafood and steak, homemade soups and salads. **B L D**

**Reilly's Lounge** is home to the best Buffalo wings in southern Illinois! **L D**

❁ **The Trace Inn Restaurant** is named for the Cahokia Trace pioneer trail that passes through Red Hills State Park near Sumner. Guests enjoy casual dining in the restaurant's rustic setting and the breeze on the enclosed deck overlooking Red Hills Lake. Now available for private occasions year-round. (618) 936-2351 • [redhillstraceinn.com](http://redhillstraceinn.com) **B L D**

**KEY** **B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner ❁ Open during winter ☎ Reservations required.



# Things To Do

You can **bike, hike, horseback ride, explore nature trails, snowshoe, cross-country ski** and **snowmobile** the many pathways of Illinois. The state is crisscrossed by more than 2,000 miles of trails, 23 of which are former railroad rights-of-way.

You can spend the day **boating** on the numerous lakes in the parks. More than 8.5 million residents participate in **fish-ing, hunting** and **wildlife-associated recreation** throughout Illinois.

The chart in each regional section identifies the parks where various recreational activities are offered. To order activity-specific recreational guides, please call the Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) at (217) 782-7498 or visit [dnr.state.il.us/publications](http://dnr.state.il.us/publications).

## TRAILS (BIKING & HIKING)

### Trail Networks

As it loops more than 500 miles between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, the **Grand Illinois Trail** connects existing trails and on-road bike routes to create the state's longest continuous trail. It hugs historical canals, crosses unglaciated hills, parallels the Rock, Fox and Mississippi rivers, and includes one of America's first rail-trails.

Illinois is also home of the **Route 66 Bike Trail**. From Chicago to St. Louis, this 400-mile route incorporates on and off-road segments on or near the historic route. Experience the magic of Route 66 from behind your handlebars.

The **Mississippi River Trail** starts in

Minnesota and ends in Louisiana and encompasses a scenic 585-mile route through Illinois. You can really appreciate the majesty of "Old Man River" as you meander through towns that developed along it.

These limestone and/or paved long-distance trail networks offer opportunities for long-distance touring. More information can be found at [dnr.state.il.us/orep/planning/](http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/planning/).

### IDNR Trails

The **Rock Island State Trail**, located near Peoria, is the first rail-trail conversion to be handled by the IDNR. The trail offers many natural and architectural attractions in a tree-canopied corridor that is only 50 to 100 feet wide. It stretches for 26 miles from Alta, in Peoria County, to Toulon, in Stark County.

The IDNR manages 45 miles of cycling/walking trails at **Tunnel Hill State Trail** in southern Illinois. Also a rail conversion, the trail traverses a 540-foot-long tunnel was built in 1870–1871.

The **Hennepin Canal Parkway**, located near Sheffield, offers more than 90 miles of trail hugging the historic canal. It was the first American canal built of concrete without stonecut facings and that was a model for the construction of the Panama Canal.

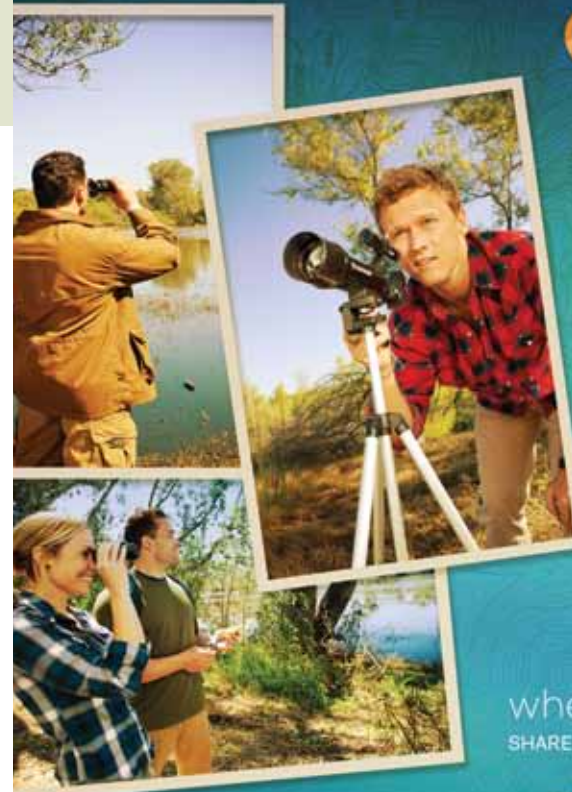
Visitors to the 96-mile **Illinois and Michigan Canal** near Morris will have the option of visiting several nearby state parks and checking out restored historical sites. There is also an abundance of wildlife and distinctive landscapes, ranging from bluffs to rolling hills.



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From desert landscapes to lush forests to soaring peaks, your family can explore them all with Celestron's outdoor essentials. Hit the trail with durable NatureDX binoculars and experience natural beauty closer than ever. Use the rugged TrekGuide—a digital compass, thermometer, and more—to scout out fresh hiking terrain. And when the campfire burns out, discover the wonders of stargazing with one of our bestselling telescopes.

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## SPORTFISHING

Each year, Illinois' 1.6 million acres of surface waters, including Lake Michigan, reservoirs, impoundments and streams, attract millions of anglers.

The most commonly caught fish in the one-million-acre portion of Lake Michigan owned by Illinois are salmon, yellow perch, smelt and trout. The IDNR stocks nearly one million fish annually, including lake, rainbow, brown and steelhead trout as well as chinook and coho salmon.

Three of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoirs are popular for sportfishing: **Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake and Rend Lake**. Crappie are the biggest draw. Other popular species are largemouth bass, white bass and catfish. They have recently been stocked with muskie, walleye and largemouth bass at Lake Shelbyville; largemouth bass, crappie and sauger at

Carlyle Lake; and largemouth and hybrid striped bass at Rend Lake.

Illinois has more than 91,000 other impoundments. Most of these **lakes and ponds**—stocked with black bass, sunfish, crappie and catfish—are man-made. Each year, about 1,000 lakes are stocked supplementally with species such as walleye, muskie, channel catfish, striped bass, hybrid striped bass and largemouth bass.

More than 26,000 miles of **streams** lace the state where anglers vie for catfish along with black bass, walleye, sauger, crappie and sunfish.

### Fishing Clinics

Free educational fishing clinics are offered across the state as part of the **Illinois Urban Fishing Program's** effort to promote conservation. Primarily

for children under age 16, the program operates sites statewide and sponsors in-school, seasonal and special event clinics year-round.

The clinics teach sportfishing ethics, fish ecology, fish identification, fishing techniques and the care and preparation of caught fish. Participants in the program receive hands-on experience by using various types of fishing equipment provided by the IDNR. Sessions conclude with a supervised fishing trip to a stocked site. All bait and fishing tackle are provided free of charge.

For more information, contact an Urban Fishing Coordinator:

**Region 1:** (815) 625-2968

**Region 2:** (815) 625-2968

**Region 3:** (217) 935-6860

**Regions 4 and 5:** (618) 462-1181

**Chicago area:** (847) 294-4134

### Fishing Licenses

Fishing licenses are available to residents and nonresidents at most IDNR offices, through various vendors around the state, such as sporting goods stores, bait shops and online at [ifishillinois.org](http://ifishillinois.org). Fishing licenses are effective January 1 of the issuing year and expire March 31 of the following year. Fishing license fees vary and are subject to change. For more information, please call (217) 782-2965.

**Illinois anglers** must have a sportfishing license in their possession while fishing in the state (residents under age 16 and those who are legally blind or disabled are exempt). Resident landowners and their tenants may fish without a license in waters on or flowing over land on which they reside. Illinois residents on

active duty in the armed forces may fish without a license while on leave.

A salmon stamp, signed or affixed to a regular fishing license, is required for those taking salmon or trout in Lake Michigan. An inland trout stamp, in addition to a regular fishing license, is required for those taking trout in waters other than Lake Michigan. A 24-hour sportfishing license, which includes trout and salmon fishing privileges, is available for residents and nonresidents.

**Nonresident anglers** must buy a nonresident sportfishing license to fish in the state. Exceptions include those under age 16, disabled veterans and anglers using fee-fishing areas licensed by the IDNR. Three types of licenses are available:

### DNR DIRECT

Across the nation, automated license systems like DNR Direct are using technology to expedite license and permit sales to better serve customers, vendors and agencies. In Illinois, outdoor enthusiasts no longer have to manually complete yet another form to buy hunting and trapping licenses and stamps, or to renew boats and snowmobiles. Deer, turkey and other permits are also available through the system. DNR Direct allows customers to make these and other transactions by simply making a telephone call, accessing the internet or visiting one of more than 1,000 vendors where terminals are located. Customers' data will be stored in a central database to speed future transactions and eliminate the



need to reenter data for multiple licenses or permits. Not only will DNR Direct save time, but the system will also eliminate endless piles of paper applications for DNR and vendors. The new, automated system offers a quick, simple way for Illinois sportsmen and sportswomen to do business—and get about their business of enjoying the great outdoors. Call 1-888-6PERMIT (673-7648) or visit [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov) for more information.





Thousands of miles of streams and stocked lakes make for excellent fishing in Illinois.

**annual, 10-day and 24-hour.** For more information about fishing regulations, where to purchase a license or license fees, call (217) 782-6302.

### Hatcheries

The three hatcheries in Illinois annually produce more than 67 million fish, composed of 19 species, including chinook and coho salmon, lake, rainbow and brown trout, walleye, muskie, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and channel catfish. You can visit the following facilities year-round:

**Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery**, 25410 North Fish Hatchery Road, RR 1, Box 148E, Topeka, IL 61567; (309) 968-7531.

**LaSalle Fish Hatchery**, 2649 North 21st Road, Marseilles, IL 61341; (815) 357-6986.

**Little Grassy Fish Hatchery**, 1258 Hatchery Lane, Makanda, IL 62958; (618) 529-4100.

### AQUATIC EXOTICS

Many exotic species have invaded the lakes and rivers of Illinois, preying upon and competing with native species. Recreational water users can unintentionally transfer exotic species from one body of water to another. Help prevent the spread of aquatic exotics by following these steps:

#### Hunters/Anglers

- Switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped or strap anchors on decoys to avoid collecting submergent and floating aquatic plants.
- Remove mud, plants or animals on boat, boots, anchors, decoy lines and other equipment.
- Clean and dry anything that comes in contact with water.
- Drain water from bait buckets before leaving any body of water.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash or on land.

### Boaters

#### Before leaving the boat launch:

- Drain boat of all lake or river water.
- Remove any plants and animals from the boat, trailer and all other equipment.

#### After leaving the boat launch:

- Wash all equipment with 104°F tap water or a high-pressure sprayer.
- Dry all equipment for at least five days.

### HUNTING

Illinois is an exceptional place to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey and deer. Public hunting areas managed by the IDNR, along with privately owned hunt clubs, offer access to thousands of hunters each year.

Portions of Illinois are major wintering grounds for Canada geese. Every winter, hundreds of thousands flock to the state. With the Canada goose season extending well into January state-wide, these local

and migratory birds provide ample opportunity to waterfowl hunters.

A number of public and private hunting areas along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers are good sites for hunting **mallards** and other ducks.

**White-tailed deer** abound throughout the state. Due to ideal habitat conditions and an active management program, Illinois deer are as large and robust as any in the country.

Hunters are encouraged to donate their entire deer harvest to food banks and charities. Participating meat processors will grind the venison into two-pound packages of burger. *Note: Hunters must properly field dress the deer before delivering to the meat processor.*

At the start of deer season, the program will offer \$50 to assist with the processing cost of whole deer donations only. Your tax-deductible donation to assist

### OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing greater access and more programs for persons with disabilities. The IDNR's goal is to make it easier for disabled persons to hunt, fish and pursue outdoor activities. In 1999, the IDNR addressed these issues, establishing a new program entitled **"Disabled Outdoor Opportunities."**

Objectives for this program include:

- Establish partnerships with organizations representing people with disabilities and work to mainstream IDNR programs and facilities to better meet the needs of the disabled.
- Review existing opportunities to eliminate barriers to participation.

- Develop and coordinate training programs. Provide knowledge with respect to needs and concerns by working with IDNR site planners to develop barrier-free designs for recreational facilities.

Disabled hunters can participate in deer, pheasant, waterfowl and dove hunting at various sites throughout Illinois. A number of fishing events are held each year as well. IDNR's intention is to expand these opportunities so that more individuals may participate. For more information, please contact **Outdoor Recreation and Retention Programs** at (618) 949-3305; TTY (217) 782-9175; [dnr.illinois.gov/doo](http://dnr.illinois.gov/doo).





## FULL-SERVICE MARINAS



**North Point Marina (Northeast Illinois)** is located on Lake Michigan, midway between Chicago and Milwaukee. This 1,500 slip, full-service marina has state-of-the-art dockage, a marine service center and other amenities. **Location:** North of Illinois Beach State Park at the Illinois-Wisconsin state line. **Open:** April 1–October 31. **Contact:** (847) 746-2845 or [whitepinesinn.com](http://whitepinesinn.com).



**Golconda Marina (South Illinois)** is located in the gateway to the Smithland Pool, a 23,000-acre recreational area of fingered tributaries off the Ohio River in southeastern Pope County. The facility has 206 slips and offers overnight moorage, boat rental, fuel and other amenities. **Location:** Near Cave-in-Rock and Dixon Springs State Parks. **Open:** Slips open year-round. Concessions closed in winter. **Contact:** (618) 683-5875 or [golcondamarina.com](http://golcondamarina.com).

with the cost of the processing can be made by noting on your check to “Illinois Sportsman Against Hunger” in the memo section, payable to the Illinois Conservation Foundation. One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Check for participating processors at [dnr.illinois.gov/programs/ISAH/Pages/MeatProcessors.aspx](http://dnr.illinois.gov/programs/ISAH/Pages/MeatProcessors.aspx).

**Wild turkey** hunting is permitted in most of the state’s 102 counties. The most popular hunting seasons are the five firearm/archery seasons in the spring, but turkey hunters also enjoy a fall season.

**Upland game**—such as **cottontail rabbit**, **ring-necked pheasant** and **bobwhite quail**—are still the backbone of the hunting tradition in Illinois. Rabbits are found virtually statewide. Pheasants are generally limited to central and northern Illinois and quail are found in much of southern and central Illinois.

The hunting seasons begin in August and September with the openings of the squirrel and dove seasons. Several public areas allow squirrel hunting, and sunflower fields cultivated in public hunting areas offer the challenge of dove hunting.

Hunters must ask permission to hunt on private property. Poaching is strictly prohibited. To report poaching, call the **Target Poachers Hot Line** at (877) 236-7529.

## Hunting Licenses

Hunting licenses are available to residents and nonresidents at the IDNR Headquarters and Region offices, as well as through vendors such as sporting goods stores, bait shops and online at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov) or by calling (888) 673-7648 or (888) 6-PERMIT.

**Illinois hunters** are required to have licenses. Exceptions exist for hunters with physical disabilities, members of

the armed services on leave and resident landowners or tenants hunting on the property where they permanently reside. Hunting and trapping licenses and state stamps are effective January 1 of the issuing year to March 31 of the following year and prices vary according to type. Call (217) 782-2965 for more information. Deer and wild turkey hunters, and those wishing to hunt in certain state areas, must obtain special permits. Contact IDNR offices at (217) 782-7305.

Hunters born on or after January 1, 1980 must show proof that they have successfully completed the IDNR’s Hunter Education course or a recognized safety course from another state, or they must show a previous year’s hunting license before another license



**Habitat Stamps** are essential for parkgoers interested in hunting and trapping.

can be issued. First-time hunters should take a safety course that covers hunter responsibility, firearm safety, wildlife conservation and wildlife identification. Call (800) 832-2599 (only in Illinois) or (217) 557-9206 for more information. Illinois residents can also call the

## WORLD SHOOTING &amp; RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

The **World Shooting & Recreational Complex** (WSRC) is located just north of Sparta in southwest Illinois. This state-of-the-art shooting facility boasts 120 trap fields covering a span of 3.5 miles, two sporting clay courses and 24 skeet fields, a cowboy action shooting corral with 12 “old west” shooting scenarios and an archery shooting trail. The Complex is host to many trap, skeet and sporting clay events, including the Amateur Trap Shooting Association’s “Grand American” Trapshooting Championships. Visitors can fish in the complex’s three fishing lakes that are loaded with largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, redear, channel catfish, trout and white, black and hybrid crappie. Fishing licenses are sold on-site. The Complex also offers scenic camping areas with



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

over 700 full service hook-ups as well as standard sites with electricity and plumbing, totaling 1,000 campsites. The 34,000-square-foot events center houses a 7,000-square-foot main event room, conference/meeting rooms and a full service restaurant and gift shop. Joe Boccardi’s Restaurant offers a superb place to relax after a day on the range or for a great meal in a delightful atmosphere. Call (618) 295-2700 or visit [dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/WSRC](http://dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/WSRC) for more information.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

## Summer

Anyone can fish in Illinois waters without a fishing license, salmon stamp or inland trout stamp during the annual **Free Fishing Days**, June 7–10, 2013. Call (217) 785-5822 for more information.

The **Illinois State Fair** (Conservation World) takes place in a 22-acre setting that offers family activities, hunting safety and fishing for 10 days (August 9–18, 2013). Exhibits include a kids archery range and a large fish tank. Visit [agr.state.il.us/isf](http://agr.state.il.us/isf) for more information.

The **DuQuoin State Fair** (Conservation Village) features outdoor equipment from boats to recreational vehicles, as well as outdoor activities, on August 23 through September 2, 2013. For more information visit [agr.state.il.us/dq](http://agr.state.il.us/dq).

## Autumn

The **Rend Lake Shooting Classic for People with Disabilities** will occur on September 14, 2013 near Whittington.

The **Illinois Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day** is held in September. Illinois honors its sportsmen and sportswomen with events planned for Carterville (John A. Logan College) and Yorkville (Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area).

The **Fort Massac Encampment** is an annual event depicting the pioneers who

## Winter

Donnelley/Depue State Fish & Wildlife Area & Complex hosts the **Youth Duck Hunt** in mid-November. The Southern Illinois Quota Zone Waterfowlers Association and IDNR host the **Youth Goose Hunt** in



Michael Braun

The Amateur Trapshooting Association's **Grand American Championship** will be held at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex from August 3–17, 2013. To learn more about the **World Shooting & Recreational Complex**, visit their website at [dnr.illinois.gov](http://dnr.illinois.gov) or call (618) 295-2700.



Illinois DNR

conquered the frontier. It is held at Fort Massac State Park on the banks of the Ohio River on October 19–20, 2013.

late December. Both events are for qualified hunters between the ages of 10 and 15. For more information about special events in Illinois, please call (217) 785-8060.

Firearm Owner's Identification Card line at (217) 782-7980.

Individuals hunting migratory birds must register with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program before they hunt. The program is designed to collect important harvest information on waterfowl, doves, woodcock and other migratory game birds. Registration is free.

A **State Habitat Stamp** is required for all persons, age 16 or older, who hunt wildlife, except for those who hunt migratory waterfowl, coots and hand-reared birds on licensed hunting preserves and state-controlled pheasant-hunting areas. A State Habitat Stamp is also required of any person, age 16 or older, who traps or sells the green hides of fur-bearing mammals. Veterans with disabilities, former prisoners of war and any person who obtained a lifetime license before January 1, 1993 are exempt.

All persons ages 16 or older who hunt migratory waterfowl and coots must obtain a **State Waterfowl Stamp** (unless otherwise exempt). Federal migratory waterfowl stamps, required for all hunters, age 16 or older, may be obtained at any U.S. post office or through various IDNR vendors.

**Nonresident hunters** (except disabled veterans) are required to purchase non-resident hunting licenses. Annual and five-day licenses are available.

## For Your Safety

Upland game hunters who use firearms must wear a solid, blaze-orange cap or hat when hunting. During firearm deer season, hunters (except waterfowl hunters) and trappers are required to wear a solid blaze-orange upper outer garment, equaling 400 square inches, and a blaze-orange cap.



Gain a better understanding of Illinois' natural features, like the white-tailed deer seen here.

Avoid hunting in extreme weather conditions. Heat exhaustion, frostbite and hypothermia can have adverse effects on you and your companions.

## State Park Interpretive Programs

Many state parks offer visitor centers and year-round interpretive programs to help visitors gain a better understanding of Illinois' natural features, wildlife and park facilities. When staff is not available at certain parks, visitor centers provide educational exhibits and audio/visual programs.

Special programming for Illinois school children includes hands-on activities that encourage learning by touching, seeing and listening to the environment. School group programs are available by reservation only.

For more information, refer to the regional charts for the location of interpretive programs and contact the individual park directly or call the program manager at (217) 782-7026.





# Nature & Wildlife

Two-thirds of Illinois was once covered by prairies of waving grass. Although much of this has been developed and transected by highways, Illinois is still home to 297 kinds of birds, 205 species of fish and 63 types of mammals.

## Plants

In the spring, Illinois seems to burst with wildflowers. Some of the best places to view wildflowers are Mississippi Pali-sades near Savanna, Starved Rock near Ottawa, Pere Marquette near Grafton and Giant City near Carbondale. Starved Rock has an annual **wildflower pilgrimage** during the first weekend in May.

**Prairie wildflowers** are best viewed from May through September. Illinois Beach State Park at Zion is one of the better places to see wildflowers. Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, near Morris, also promises great wildflowers.

**Wetlands** are very important to Illinois' ecosystem and provide a home for many kinds of trees and plant life. The bald cypress grows only in swamps and bottom-land forests, such as those found at Heron Pond and Long Reach. Both are located in the Cache River State Natural Area of southern Illinois.

## Mammals

Illinois is home to 63 different species and a great place to take the family wildlife watching. The **beaver** lives in a semi-aquatic environment and builds dams for protection. It feeds on the bark of aspen, pine, fir and cottonwood trees. **Whitetail deer** can be spotted across

the state and are an important part of the ecosystem.

## Fish

Illinois waters teem with more than 187 different native species of fish, including many angler favorites—largemouth bass, white and black crappie and feisty bluegill. Monster muskies and toothsome walleye inhabit Kinkaid Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area in Jackson County. In Lake Michigan, stocked chinook salmon can weigh more than 30 pounds!

## Amphibians & Reptiles

Listen during warm evenings near Illinois wetlands and you'll hear the booming croak of the **bullfrog**, the largest frog in North America. Some 21 species of frogs and toads live in the Prairie State. In the ancient waters near the Cache River State Natural Area, there's a good chance you'll spot a snake. Although the majority of snakes in the Cache are harmless, this area is home to the venomous **cottonmouth**.

## Birds

Illinois claims more than 500 miles of the Mississippi Flyway, a major migration route for waterfowl. Each year, one million or more ducks and geese winter in Illinois. Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, the largest native prairie remnant in the state, is home to the state's endangered Henslow's sparrow, the least bittern, upland sandpiper and other prairie-dependent species. The greater prairie-chicken and the colorful **prothonotary warbler** are other species found in the parks.



# Illinois State Museum

Visit the Illinois State Museum and see the worlds of art and nature unfold. The main facility is in Springfield, and the museum operates multiple facilities around the state. Admission is free and all are accessible. For more information, find them on Facebook or [museum.state.il.us](http://museum.state.il.us) &

## Illinois State Museum—Springfield

The Illinois State Museum features exhibits that tell the story of Illinois land, life, people and art. An interactive natural history hall, **Changes: Dynamic Illinois Environments**, reveals the dramatic changes in Illinois environments over the last 500 million years. Life-size dioramas and thousands of authentic fossils and specimens illustrate processes that transformed Illinois. The Play Museum is a new hands-on area for children ages 3-10. Kids can load a jeep, crawl through a cave, dig for fossils and learn through play what it's like to work in a museum. 502 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62706; (217) 782-7386. Open Monday to Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery & Illinois Artisans Shop

Visit the only gallery in Chicago whose purpose is exhibiting the finest of Illinois art, past and present. The Illinois Artisans Shop features a selection of fine objects made by Illinois artisans. James R. Thompson Center, 2nd Floor, 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601; (312) 814-5322; Open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery (Lockport)

Discover the fine, decorative and ethnographic arts of Illinois presented in changing exhibitions and public programs. Norton Building, along the Illinois & Michigan Canal, 201 West 10th Street, First Floor, Lockport, IL 60441; (815) 838-7400; Open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Saturdays, holidays and exhibition changes. Call for information.

## Dickson Mounds Museum (Fulton County)

Visitors can explore the world of the American Indian through a 12,000-year journey of human experience in the Illinois River Valley. Public programs include workshops, demonstrations, performances, festivals, and special exhibits on archaeology, American Indian culture, natural history and rural life. The park there features a picnic area, remains of prehistoric buildings, an early 19th-century school and plank road tollhouses. 10956 North Dickson Mounds Road, Lewistown, IL 61542; (309) 547-3721; Open daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center (Whittington-Rend Lake Area)

Visitors will find southern Illinois' finest crafts, made by over 800 artisans. Exhibits feature works of past and present artists. South of Mt. Vernon on I-57, Exit #77, Whittington, IL 62897; (618) 629-2220; Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



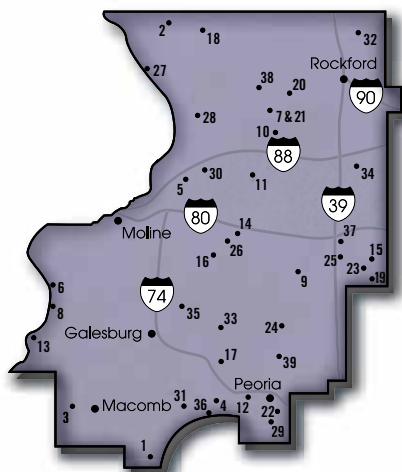
# Northwest Illinois



Although much of Illinois has landscape shaped by glacial action, this is not the case with the extreme northwest corner. Its rolling hills, limestone cliffs and rugged terrain owe their existence to erosion by the Mississippi River and local tributaries.

Among the noteworthy names associated with this area is **John Deere**, who made the first steel plow in 1837. The home in which Ulysses S. Grant lived prior to the Civil War can be toured in historic Galena, while the birthplace of poet and Lincoln biographer Carl Sandburg is open to visitors in Galesburg.

For more information about sites in northwest Illinois, contact Region 1 Office, Department of Natural Resources, 2317 East Lincolnway, Suite A, Sterling, IL 61081; (815) 625-2968; [dnr.r1parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r1parks@illinois.gov).



## Anderson Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (1)

Located on Highway 100, about 11 miles north of Browning, Anderson Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area provides fishing, hunting and camping on a backwater lake of the Illinois River. Major recreational features include dove, squirrel and waterfowl hunting as well as exceptional bluegill fishing. 647 North State Highway 100, Astoria 61501; (309) 759-4484.

## Apple River Canyon State Park (2)

With its massive limestone cliffs, deep ravines and timbered hills, Apple River Canyon State Park credits its rugged good looks to centuries of erosion. Just under 300 acres in size, it offers primitive camping, beautiful trails and river fishing. Other opportunities include hunting, lake fishing, nature preserves and many habitat restorations. 8763 East Canyon Road, Apple River 61001; (815) 745-3302.

## Argyle Lake State Park (3)

Located along an old stage route between Galena and Beardstown, Argyle Lake State Park is home to rough terrain, beaver dams and more than 200 bird species. The 1,700-acre park, which includes the 90-acre Argyle Lake, is west of Macomb and north of Colchester. 640 Argyle Park Road, Colchester 62326; (309) 776-3422.

## Banner Marsh State Fish & Wildlife Area (4)

Made up of more than 450 individual bodies of water and more than 200 acres of agricultural fields, Banner Marsh is 25 miles southwest of Peoria in Fulton and

Peoria counties. Freshwater marshes established at the site provide fish and wildlife habitat along the Illinois River Valley. Contact Rice Lake, 19721 North U.S. 24, Canton 61520; (309) 647-9184.

## Big Bend State Fish & Wildlife Area (5)

In Whiteside County near Prophetstown, Big Bend contains 2,376 acres. It is open for hunting, hiking and limited fishing. P.O. Box 181, Prophetstown 61277; (815) 537-2926.

## Big River State Forest (6)

Encompassing 3,000 acres along the Mississippi River, Big River State Forest is a remnant of the woodland that once bordered the vast prairies. The 1.5-mile Lincoln Hiking Trail commemorates Abraham Lincoln's march through the area in 1832, when he led 2,000 militiamen to fight in the Black Hawk War. RR 1, Box 118, Keithsburg 61442; (309) 374-2496.

## Castle Rock State Park (7)

Named after its St. Peter sandstone rock formations, the park offers picnicking, hiking, limited hunting, fishing and a primitive canoe area campground on the shore of the Rock River. Campers must access it by water, making it ideal for the day visitor. Located three miles south of Oregon on Highway 2, more than 700 of the park's nearly 2,000 acres are designated as an Illinois nature preserve. 1365 West Castle Road, Oregon 61061; (815) 732-7329.

## Delabar State Park (8)

Located along the Mississippi River about 1.5 miles north of Oquawka near Highway 164 in Henderson County, Delabar State Park offers quality outdoor

experiences for anglers, hikers, campers and picnickers. Many of the site's 89 acres are forested with sturdy oak, birch and hickory trees. RR 2, Box 27, Oquawka 61469; (309) 374-2496.

## Donnelley/Depue Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area & Complex (9)

Located in Bureau and Putnam counties on the "Great Bend" of the Illinois River between Spring Valley and Putnam, the complex is on an important North American waterfowl migration corridor. Much of the 3,838-acre complex is managed for waterfowl feeding, nesting, resting, hunting and viewing. Visitors enjoy bird watching, boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, photography and nature study. 1001 West Fourth Street, Depue 61322; (815) 447-2353.

## Franklin Creek State Natural Area (10)

Developed by local volunteers, this site boasts scenic trails for hiking and horseback riding, as well as fishing and limited hunting. Tours of the historic Grist Mill are available. Located in Lee County, one mile northwest of Franklin Grove and eight miles east of Dixon, it contains a 198-acre nature preserve. 1872 Twist Road, Franklin Grove 61031; (815) 456-2878.

## Green River State Wildlife Area (11)

Situated six miles northwest of Ohio off of Highway 26, this 2,565-acre wildlife area contains the best remaining example of the wetland-prairie mosaic that once covered nearly one-half million acres of the area's historic lowlands known as the Great Winnebago Swamp. Today, the site is home to prairie, forest and wetland wildlife. This multiple-use site provides





hunting, hiking, bird watching, horseback trail riding and camping opportunities. 375 Game Road, Harmon 61042; (815) 379-2324.

#### **Hazel & Bill Rutherford's Wildlife Prairie State Park (12)**

This unique, 2,000-acre zoological park is home to wolves, bison, waterfowl, black bear, elk, cougar, otter and other wildlife. Enjoy spectacular natural settings, a butterfly garden, wildflowers, lakes and restored prairies. The Pioneer Farmstead features a farm animal petting area, a one-room schoolhouse and a log cabin. You can also ride the 24-gauge train. Lodging on the prairie includes renovated Santa Fe Train Caboose, Cabin on the Hill, or Prairie Stables or Cottages by the Lake. The park is located just west of Peoria along I-74, the Kickapoo/Edwards exit. 3826 North Taylor Road, Peoria, 61615; (309) 676-0998.

#### **Henderson County State Fish & Wildlife Area (13)**

Offering camping, picnicking, fishing, boating and winter sports, this conservation area is about 20 miles southwest of Monmouth and five miles east of the Mississippi River. RR 1, Keithsburg 61442; (309) 374-2496.

#### **Hennepin Canal State Trail (14)**

The Hennepin Canal was built at the beginning of the 20th century as a commercial waterway connecting the Illinois River with the Mississippi. Cheaper railway transport soon made its barge traffic obsolete and, by the 1930s, boaters, hikers and paddlers took over the 96-mile canal. Visitors can travel its whole length.

16006 875 East Street, Sheffield 61361; (815) 454-2328.

#### **Illini State Park (15)**

From its location on the southern bank of the Illinois River south of Marseilles, this 500-acre park is a haven for songbirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. The young workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed some of the rugged stone picnic shelters in the 1930s. 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; (815) 795-2448.

#### **Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreation Area (16)**

One of the largest round barns in the country can be seen here. For a tour, call the Friends Foundation at (309) 852-4262. Situated on a glacial moraine five miles north of Kewanee, the park is along a trail Sauk Indians used in their treks between Lake Michigan and the confluence of the Mississippi and Rock rivers. 28616 Sauk Trail Road, Kewanee 61443; (309) 853-5589.

#### **Jubilee College State Park (17)**

Home to one of the earliest educational enterprises in Illinois, the park and its sister site, Jubilee College State Historic Site, are located 15 miles northwest of Peoria near Kickapoo. In addition to the rich history of the college, the park offers camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding facilities. 13921 West Route 150, Brimfield 61517; (309) 446-3758. 🇺🇸

#### **Lake Le-Aqua-Na (18)**

Named for the nearby village of Lena, and the Latin word for water, this 715-acre park is nestled between the gla-

cial plains and the rolling hills of Stephenson County. Lake Le-Aqua-Na offers a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including more than 10 miles of multi-use trails, a 40-acre lake for sport fishing, a swim beach and three campgrounds, totaling more than 170 campsites (with a shower building). Open May through October. 8542 North Lake Road, Lena 61048; (815) 369-4282.

#### **LaSalle Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (19)**

Called a “perched” lake because it is formed by levees that rise above the surrounding land, LaSalle Lake is approximately eight miles southeast of Marseilles. High winds require adherence to safety precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; (815) 357-1608.

#### **Lowden State Park (20)**

Assuming a restful, reverent pose, a 48-foot-tall concrete monolith of an American Indian towers above the Rock River at Lowden State Park. Local residents named it “Black Hawk” in honor of the great Sauk warrior. 1411 North River Road, Oregon 61061; (815) 732-6828.

#### **Lowden-Miller State Forest (21)**

Situated three miles south of Oregon along the Rock River, Lowden-Miller State Forest provides excellent deer and turkey habitat on its 2,291 acres. It offers hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing and equestrian trails. Contact Castle Rock State Park, 1365 West Castle Road, Oregon 61061; (815) 732-7329.



#### **Mackinaw River State Fish & Wildlife Area (22)**

Located in Tazewell County five miles northeast of Mackinaw, the site offers a diversity of landscape covering 1,448 acres over timbered hills, open meadows and river bottoms. Canoe access enables visitors to float the scenic Mackinaw River. Other activities include fishing, hunting, hiking and picnicking. 15470 Nelson Road, Mackinaw 61755; (309) 963-4969.

#### **Marseilles State Fish & Wildlife Area (23)**

Located in LaSalle County just south of the town of Marseilles and containing 2,514 acres, the area is jointly used by the Illinois National Guard as a training facility and is open to the general public for hunting. Contact 2660 East 2350th Road, Marseilles 61341; (815) 795-2448.

#### **Marshall State Fish & Wildlife Area (24)**

Located along nearly 10 miles of scenic Illinois River backwaters, the largest tract of Marshall State Fish & Wildlife Area is east of the Illinois River, adjacent to Highway 26. Bottomlands and bluffs support a variety of animals, plants and outdoor pursuits including picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting and hiking. Migrating waterfowl, great blue herons and bald eagles provide birders exceptional viewing opportunities. 236 State Route 26, Lacon 61540; (309) 246-8351.

#### **Matthiessen State Park (25)**

Bluffs composed of 450-million-year-old St. Peter sandstone, canyons formed by water erosion and the streaming Cascade Falls are just a few of the park's striking features. Home to more than 200 species of birds and myriad woodland flowers, the 1,938-acre



park is south of Utica and a stone's throw from Starved Rock State Park. P.O. Box 509, Utica 61373; (815) 667-4868.

#### **Mautino State Fish & Wildlife Area (26)**

This site lies south of Sheffield, encompassing 871 acres of mostly unreclaimed strip-mined land. The area is dotted with 15 stocked lakes for fishing. Be aware that shore access is limited and that shorelines tend to drop off suddenly into deep water. Contact Hennepin Canal Parkway, 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield 61361; (815) 454-2328.

#### **Mississippi Palisades State Park (27)**

Untouched by glaciers that left their mark elsewhere in the state, this park is rich with rock formations carved by erosion. Situated north of Savanna along the lofty, wooded palisades of the Mississippi River, the park's inhabitants include pileated woodpeckers, migratory waterfowl and a variety of upland wildlife. 16327 A, Route 84, Savanna 61074; (815) 273-2731.

#### **Morrison-Rockwood State Park (28)**

Boasting an abundant animal population, Morrison-Rockwood State Park offers woodland, water and other habitat to deer, foxes, coyotes, pheasants, rabbits and turkeys. The 1,150-acre site, which includes the 77-acre Lake Carlton, is north of Morrison off Highway 78. 18750 Lake Road, Morrison 61270; (815) 772-4708.

#### **Powerton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (29)**

Located one mile southwest of Peoria in Tazewell County, the lake was built on the floodplain of the Illinois

River in 1971 by Commonwealth Edison Company as a cooling reservoir for the fossil-fueled power plant. Today, the completely diked, 1,426-acre lake is leased by the Department of Natural Resources for visitor fishing and hunting. The entire shoreline is rocky. 7982 South Park Road, Manito 61546; (309) 968-7135.

#### **Prophetstown State Recreation Area (30)**

Featuring a variety of recreational opportunities, Prophetstown State Recreation Area also has historical significance. Picnicking, fishing, camping, hiking and wildlife viewing make this 52-acre site, situated on the northeast edge of Prophetstown along the south bank of the Rock River, great for family outings. Riverside Drive and Park Avenue, P.O. Box 181, Prophetstown, 61277; (815) 537-2926.

#### **Rice Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (31)**

Just 15 miles north of Havana in Fulton County, Rice Lake is a waterfowler's dream. Its high-quality habitat attracts thousands of migrating birds annually. Areas are open for fishing, boating, camping and wildlife observation. 19721 North U.S. 24, Canton 61520; (309) 647-9184.

#### **Rock Cut State Park (32)**

Located one mile west of the State Route 173 exit off I-90 north of Rockford, the park's 3,100 acres are host to a range of summer and winter activities, including fishing, swimming, camping and cross-country skiing. 7318 Harlem Road, Loves Park 61111; (815) 885-3311. ♿

#### **Rock Island State Trail (33)**

Located in north-central Illinois, between the communities of Alta in Peoria County and Toulon in Stark County, the Rock Island Trail provides 27 miles for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. A primitive campground is also available. The trail is one of the premier rails-to-trails facilities in Illinois. 311 East Williams, P.O. Box 64, Wyoming 61491; (309) 695-2228.

#### **Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area (34)**

Named for the Potawatomi chief who briefly held a small parcel of this land 10 years after the 1832 Black Hawk War, Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area is off U.S. 30, midway between DeKalb and LaSalle-Peru. Visually impaired visitors can listen to an audio guided tour of the interpretive nature trail. 4201 Shabbona Grove Road, Shabbona 60550; (815) 824-2106. ♿

#### **Snakeden Hollow State Fish & Wildlife Area (35)**

The 2,740-acre Snakeden Hollow State Fish & Wildlife Area, located in Knox County, one mile southeast of Victoria, is known for its exceptional waterfowl hunting. The 112 water impoundments offer largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, muskellunge and walleye for fishing. Seasonal restrictions and limited access may apply. 1936 Route 167, P.O. Box 295, Victoria 61485; (309) 879-2607.

#### **Spring Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (36)**

Containing a large bluff overlooking a long, narrow lake, the Spring Lake area is

25 miles southwest of Peoria on the east side of the Illinois River. Camping, picnicking, fishing, boating, hiking and hunting opportunities provide many recreational experiences. Boat rentals are also available. 7982 South Park Road, Manito 61546; (309) 968-7135.

#### **Starved Rock State Park (37)**

Seasonal waterfalls, inspiring bluffs and canyons dominate the landscape at Starved Rock State Park, located one mile south of Utica, midway between the cities of LaSalle-Peru and Ottawa. Legend tells of a band of Illiniwek that was under attack by rival Ottawa-Potawatomis, starving here in the 1760s atop a 125-foot sandstone bluff. Routes 178 and 71, P.O. Box 509, Utica 61373; (815) 667-4726. ♿

#### **White Pines Forest State Park (38)**

Located southwest of Mount Morris, White Pines Forest State Park features one of the largest southernmost stands of native white pines in Illinois. It is also noted for its vine-covered limestone bluffs. Concrete fords span Pine Creek, allowing cars to drive through the flowing stream. 6712 West Pines Road, Mt. Morris 61054; (815) 946-3717. ♿

#### **Woodford State Fish & Wildlife Area (39)**

Situated east of the Illinois River, northeast of Peoria just off Highway 26, Woodford is a picturesque bottomland setting with silver maple, cottonwood, ash and willow trees. Picnicking, camping, boating, fishing and hunting are enjoyed. 524 Conservation Lane, Lowpoint 61545; (309) 246-8351.







## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

PARK	ANDERSON LAKE	APPLE RIVER CANYON	ARGYLE LAKE	BANNER MARSH	BIG BEND	BIG RIVER	CASTLE ROCK	DELABAR	DONNELLEY/DEPUE	FRANKLIN CREEK	GREEN RIVER	HENDERSON COUNTY	HENNEPIN CANAL	ILLINI (PC <sup>h</sup> )	JOHNSON-SAUK (H, N)	JUBILEE COLLEGE
ACREAGE	2,240	297	1,722	3,979	2,376	2,970	2,014	89	3,838	882	2,565	88	5,348	507	1,361	3,184
CONCESSION			♿											♿	♿	
DRINKING WATER	•	•	♿			♿	•	♿		•	•	•	♿	♿	♿	♿
HISTORIC STRUCTURE										♿			•	♿	♿	•
RESTAURANT																
RESTROOMS	♿	♿	♿	♿	•	♿	♿	♿		♿	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*	•	•	•			•		•		•	•			♿	•	♿
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff			♿							•		•				
BIKE TRAILS			M					•					•			M
BOATING	•		•	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP	•	♿	♿		♿	•	•	•				•	•	•	♿	
BOAT MOTORS	U		10	25		U	U	U				E	10	U	E	
BOAT RENTALS			•												•	
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) ♿ Canoe camping ♿ Horse camping	C	C (NS) Y + ♿	A BE C D Y			C D + ♿		BE C D		♿	C	C	C Y	A BS Y + ♿	A <sup>h</sup> + C <sup>h</sup> + Y+ PC+	A BS C Y
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)	•		•R	•		•	•	•				•	•	•	•	
FISHING	•	•	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	♿	•
HIKING		♿	♿		•	•	•	•	•	♿	•	•	♿	♿	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND			♿			•				•	•		•			•
HORSE RENTAL						•										•
HORSE TRAILS			•			•			•	•	•		•			•
HUNTING	•	•	•	♿	•	•	•		♿	•	•		•		•	•
NATURE PRESERVE		•	•				•		•	•			N		N	•
PICNICKING	•	♿	♿	•		♿	•	•		•		•	♿	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH																

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

## CAMPING

**Class AP (Premium) sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

**Class BSP (Premium) sites**

Showers and vehicular access, \$12/night

**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$10/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

**PC** Primitive cabins

**NS** No Showers

**+** Advanced Reservations

**~** Accepts Credit Cards

*Camping rates are subject to change*

## BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only

**10** 10 horsepower limit

**15** 15 horsepower limit

**25** 25 horsepower limit

**U** Unlimited

♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities

N Nature preserve nearby

H Historic/archeological site

L Lodging/resort

M Mountain bike trail

† Pilot no-wake program

	LAKE LE-AQUA-NA	LASALLE LAKE	LOWDEN (PC <sup>h</sup> )	LOWDEN-MILLER	MACKINAW RIVER	MARSEILLES	MARSHALL	MATTHESEN	MAUTINO	MISSISSIPPI PALISADES	MORRISON-ROCKWOOD	POWERTON LAKE	PROPHETSTOWN	RICE LAKE	ROCK CUT	ROCK ISLAND TRAIL	SHABONA LAKE (PC <sup>h</sup> )	SNAKEDEN HOLLOW	SPRING LAKE	STARVED ROCK (H, L)	WHITE PINES FOREST (H, L)	WILDLIFE PRAIRIE	WOODFORD
	715	2,073	207	2,291	1,448	2,514	5,658	1,938	871	2,550	1,152	1,426	52	6,940	3,092	392	1,546	2,738	2,032	2,630	385	1,348	2,901
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	E	U	U				U		E	U	10	U	U	U	U		10	10	25	U			U
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	A BS C Y +		A BS C				BE C D			A BS D Y	A BS Y		A BS Y	BE ♿ D Y	AP <sup>h</sup> BS <sup>h</sup> C Y + ~	D Y	AP <sup>h</sup> Y + ~		C D Y	AP <sup>h</sup> Y + C	BS ♿ Y +	Cabin only	C
	•R		•		•		•		•	•	•R		•	•	•R		•		•	•R		R	•
	♿	♿	•		•		•	•	•	•	♿	♿	•	•	♿		♿	•	•	♿	•	•	•
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# Northeast Illinois



The northeast section of Illinois is the most recently glaciated portion of the state. Remnants of the great prairies that once covered nearly 60 percent of the land are evident here, as are most of the state's glacial lakes and true bogs. You'll also find the dunes of Illinois Beach along Lake Michigan displaying, within its six-mile length, thousands of years of geologic development and nearly 700 different plant species.

The Wea tribe of Miami occupied the Illinois Beach State Park area during the last quarter of the 17th century. In 1802, an American military fortification, Fort Dearborn, was erected in Chicago—on land used by the Potawatomi and Ottawa. Ten years later, U.S. forces abandoned the fort and, by 1830, fewer than 100 people lived there. However, following

the 1832 Black Hawk War, Chicago's population swelled to 1,800 people and, by 1838, the city was established as a shipping port.

For more information about sites in northeast Illinois, contact Region 2 Office, Tri-County State Park, 2050 W. Stearns Road, Bartlett, IL 60103; (847) 608-3100; [dnr.r2parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r2parks@illinois.gov).

## Buffalo Rock State Park & Effigy Tumuli (1)

On the bluffs of the Illinois River—about two miles west of Ottawa on Dee Benett Road at Buffalo Rock State Park—stand five earthen sculptures molded from Illinois clay. Called Effigy Tumuli, this unique “earth art” is a grand sculpture. All five subjects—snake, turtle, catfish, frog and an insect called a “water strider”—are native to the Illinois River area. 1300 North 27th Road, P.O. Box 2034, Ottawa 61350; (815) 433-2220.

## Chain O'Lakes State Park (2)

Comprising 6,063 acres of northeastern Illinois, Chain O'Lakes State Park borders three natural lakes and the Fox River, which connects seven other lakes. Pheasant hunting is allowed by permit only. Hunting for deer (bow only) and waterfowl is offered by lottery. Fishing for muskie, northern pike, largemouth bass and other species is optimal from boats or piers due to the marshy shoreline environment. Camping, hiking, biking and boating are also popular. 8916 Wilmot Road, Spring Grove 60081; (847) 587-5512.

## Channahon State Park (3)

Located one mile south of U.S. 6 and Canal Street in Channahon, this state park serves as the trailhead for the 61-mile I & M Canal State Trail. Historic structures include a canal lock-tender's house and canal locks 6 and 7. 2 West Story Street, P.O. Box 54, Channahon 60410; (815) 467-4271.

## Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area (4)

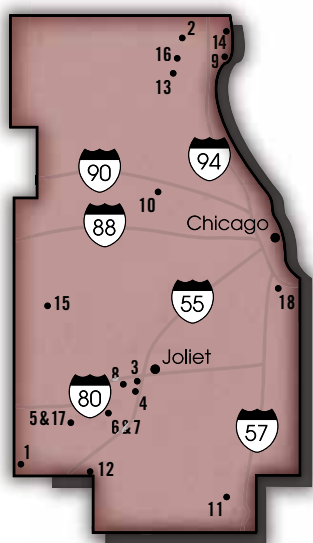
Located on I-55, eight miles south of I-80, this site's 5,500 acres make up one of the largest and most used hunting and field training areas in the state. Visitors can also picnic, boat and fish. There are two small natural areas and 12 miles of equestrian trails. 24621 North River Road, Wilmington 60481; (815) 423-5326.

## Gebhard Woods State Park (5)

Dotted with shade trees, including eastern cottonwoods, maples and sycamores, Gebhard Woods State Park stretches along the I & M Canal in the city of Morris. Hikers, campers, picnickers and paddlers frequent this 30-acre site, making it one of the state's more popular parks. 401 Ottawa Street, Morris 60450; (815) 942-0796.

## Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (6)

Visiting Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area today is much like seeing Illinois as it was 150 years ago, when prairie covered nearly 60 percent of the state. Big bluestem, Indian grass and switchgrass thrive here, as do broad-leaved flowering plants known as forbs. The area is situated southeast of Morris



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on Pine Bluff/Lorenzo Road, midway between Highway 47 and I-55. 5010 North Jugtown Road, Morris 60450; (815) 942-2899.

#### **Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area (7)**

Just north of Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area is Heidecke State Fish & Wildlife Area. Heidecke Lake, itself, is leased to the Department of Natural Resources for hunting and fishing. Regulations apply at this 2,129-acre site. 5010 North Jugtown Road, Morris 60450; (815) 942-6352.

#### **I & M Canal State Trail (8)**

Directly responsible for the growth of Chicago and other Illinois cities, the I & M Canal linked Lake Michigan to the Illinois River at LaSalle when it was constructed in 1848. Today, the old towpath is used as a 61-mile hiking, biking and snowmobiling trail. 402 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 272, Morris 60450; (815) 942-9501.

#### **Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park (9)**

Stretching more than 6.5 miles along the shore of Lake Michigan, Illinois Beach State Park contains the only beach ridge shoreline remaining in the state. The first Western was filmed here in 1914 so that movie producers could take advantage of the area's unusual landscape. For information, see "Plan Your Visit" chapter. Lakefront, Zion 60099, (847) 662-4811. 📍

#### **James "Pate" Philip State Park (10)**

Formerly Tri-County State Park, this park conserves 501 acres of open space at the junction of Cook, Du Page

and Kane counties. Years of natural resource restoration since the park's acquisition in 1991 has reestablished grassland, woodland and wetland communities that support native plants, wildlife and a tributary to the east branch of Brewster Creek.

The park's development is geared to natural resources education. The visitor center contains photomurals and interactive displays highlighting valuable ecosystems. A multi-screen video presentation tells the story of evolving land uses, from pre-settlement times to present day. Outdoor recreation opportunities include a 3.8-mile, multi-loop trail system (hiking, biking and cross-country skiing) and a picnic area with a shelter building and restrooms. The park is located at 2050 West Stearns Road, 2.5 miles west of IL Route 59 in Bartlett, IL 60103; (847) 608-3100.

#### **Kankakee River State Park (11)**

Recreation seekers from Chicago began using the area now known as Kankakee River State Park as early as the 1890s. Today, visitors from Chicago, Kankakee and throughout northeastern Illinois are drawn to the park for its fishing, canoeing, hunting, bicycling trails and camping. 5314 West Route 102, Bourbonnais 60914; (815) 933-1383. 📍

#### **Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area (12)**

Three miles southwest of Braidwood, the Mazonia Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area provides more than 1,700 acres of grassland, brushy draws and shrubs on its 6,120 acres. For the angler, 200 water

impoundments contain bass, crappie, channel catfish and other species. Hunters will enjoy this area for its excellent dove, pheasant, goose, duck and rabbit hunting. Route 53 and Huston Road, P.O. Box 126, Braceville 60407; (815) 237-0063.

#### **Moraine Hills State Park (13)**

Deriving its name from the boulders, stones and other glacial debris, Moraine Hills State Park hosts thriving marsh and fen communities among its 2,247 acres of rolling hills. More than 10 miles of one-way trails make Moraine Hills popular for hikers and bicyclists. 1510 South River Road, McHenry 60051; (815) 385-1624.

#### **North Point Marina (14)**

Located on Lake Michigan's northern Illinois shoreline, midway between Chicago and Milwaukee, this full-service marina features 1,500 boat slips and 46 charter captains. Located just north of Illinois Beach State Park, it is bordered on the west by an area of natural wetland, forest and prairie. 701 North Point Drive, Winthrop Harbor 60096; (847) 746-2845.

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#### **Silver Springs State Fish & Wildlife Area (15)**

Named after a small pool of clear, bubbling water found at the site, this park and wildlife area is situated five miles west of Yorkville off Highway 47. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing are all popular attractions. 13608 Fox Road, Yorkville 60560; (630) 553-6297.

#### **Volo Bog State Natural Area (16)**

Volo Bog State Natural Area was created when melting glaciers pushed deep into the ground 12,000 years ago. Sphagnum moss, cattails, leatherleaf and a tamarack forest are part of the bog's interesting plant life. 28478 West Brandenburg Road, Ingleside 60041; (815) 344-1294.

#### **William G. Stratton State Park (17)**

Although it is only seven acres, William G. Stratton State Park is widely used by boaters and anglers from northeastern Illinois. Launch ramps with docks serve boaters from the Illinois River bridge in Morris. 401 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 272, Morris 60450; (815) 942-0796.

#### **William W. Powers State Recreation Area (18)**

Offering fishing, waterfowl hunting, picnicking and winter sports, William W. Powers State Recreation Area is on Chicago's far southeast side, along the Indiana border. At the center of its attraction is Wolf Lake, which is segmented by dikes and offers six miles of shoreline fishing to bank anglers. 12949 South Avenue "O," Chicago 60633; (773) 646-3270.



## NORTHEAST ILLINOIS

	PARK	BUFFALO ROCK	CHAIN O' LAKES (PC <sup>6</sup> )	CHANNAHAN	DES PLAINES	GERHARD WOODS	GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE	HEIDECKE	1 & M CANAL (H)	ILLINOIS BEACH (L)	JAMES PATE PHILIP	KANKAKEE RIVER (PC <sup>6</sup> )	MAZONIA/BRAIDWOOD	MORAIN HILLS	NORTH POINT MARINA	SILVER SPRINGS	VOLVO BOG	WILLIAM G STRATTON	WILLIAM W. POWERS
ACREAGE		298	6,063	25	5,500	30	2,468	2,129	2,802	4,160	501	3,932	2,247	2,247	140	1,314	1,200	7	624
CONCESSION		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DRINKING WATER		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HISTORIC STRUCTURE																			
RESTAURANT																			
RESTROOMS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff																			
BIKE TRAILS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BOATING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BOAT MOTORS		U	U/10					E			10	U/E	E	U	E		U	U	
BOAT RENTALS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) • Canoe camping • Horse camping		AP <sup>6</sup> BSP Y +	D Y		D Y			D Y	AP <sup>6</sup> Y +			AP <sup>6</sup> BEP CY +				Y			
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)		• R	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	• R	•	•	•	•	•	•
FISHING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HIKING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND																			
HORSE RENTAL		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HORSE TRAILS		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HUNTING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
NATURE PRESERVE		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
PICNICKING		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SWIMMING BEACH		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

### CAMPING

**Class AP (Premium) sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BEP (Premium) sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night

**Class BSP (Premium) sites** Showers and vehicular access; \$12/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

+ Advanced Reservations  
~ Accepts Credit Cards  
Camping rates are subject to change  
<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

### BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only  
**10** 10 horsepower limit  
**15** 15 horsepower limit  
**25** 25 horsepower limit  
**U** Unlimited

• Accessible to visitors with disabilities  
**H** Historic/archeological site  
**L** Lodging/resort  
**PC** Primitive cabins



# East-Central Illinois

Unlike the agricultural fields existing in the region today, prairies and deciduous forests once covered much of east-central Illinois. The area around Lincoln Trail State Park, with its scrubby oak and dense hazel brush, was largely unsettled until the National Road passed through in 1827. This part of the state is also home to large man-made lakes at Clinton and Shelbyville, which create a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Abraham Lincoln's connection to Illinois began in this region in 1830 when he and his father, cousin and stepbrother built a log cabin in Macon County after arriving there from southern Indiana. The cabin was dismantled in 1876 and moved to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, but the Lincoln Trail Home- stead State Memorial commemorates the

site today. The Lincoln Log Cabin in Coles County was the last home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham's parents.

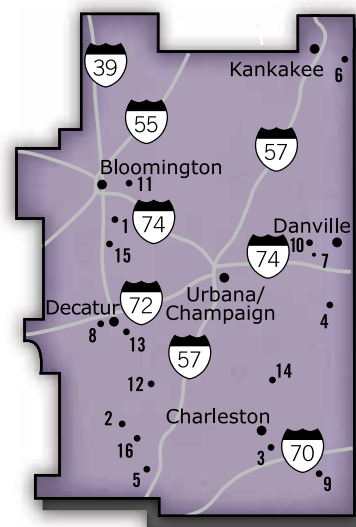
For more information about sites in east-central Illinois, contact Region 3 Office, Department of Natural Resources, 1556 State Route 54, Clinton, IL 61727; (217) 935-6860; [dnr.r3parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r3parks@illinois.gov).

## Clinton Lake State Recreation Area (1)

With half of its 9,000-plus acres a lake for Exelon's Clinton Nuclear Power Plant, Clinton Lake State Recreation Area is popular with anglers, boaters, water-skiers and swimmers. Constructed in the 1970s, the lake is three miles east of Clinton. Clinton Lake offers a variety of hunting opportunities, attracting sportsmen from across the state. 7251 Ranger Road, DeWitt 61735; (217) 935-8722.

## Eagle Creek State Park (2)

A favorite of walkers and hikers, this park offers year-round camping and scenic hiking trails, many of which hug the Lake Shelbyville shoreline. Near Wolf Creek State Park, the 1,463-acre site is north of Shelbyville and an easy drive from several central Illinois communities, including Springfield, Decatur and Effingham. Nestled in the heart of over 34,000 acres of woods and prairie in the park is the National Golf Course. This challenging yet fair test for the golfer of any ability is on the banks of Lake Shelbyville. For more information, visit [thenationalgc.com](http://thenationalgc.com). Rural Route 1, Box 198 B, Findlay 62535; (217) 756-5555. •





**Fox Ridge State Park (3)**

Amid the rolling hills and thickly wooded ridges of the Embarras (pronounced “ambraw”) River, this park features two Rent-A-Camp cabins and other camping sites, two baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, a horse trail as well as nine hiking trails. 18175 State Park Road, Charleston 61920; (217) 345-6416.

**Harry “Babe” Woodyard State Natural Area (4)**

This wooded area encompasses 2.2 miles of the Little Vermilion River, listed as a significant stream because of its aquatic features. The site supports 12 state endangered or threatened species and provides homes for 23 forest interior species. Facilities have not been developed. 19268 East 670 North, Georgetown 61846; (217) 442-4915.

**Hidden Springs State Forest (5)**

Part of the state forest system, Hidden Springs offers 1,200 acres of camping, picnicking, hunting and hiking opportunities to visitors. A forest improvement demonstration area shows the types of trees that would be removed in managed woodlands. RR 1, Box 200, Strasburg 62465; (217) 644-3091.

**Iroquois County State Wildlife Area (6)**

This site is situated in a low, glacial outwash plain associated with the Kankakee River Valley that consists of marshlands, sand ridges and dunes. The area features some of the finest and most extensive prairie-marsh and sand dune vegetation remaining in Illinois. Primarily operated as a permit pheasant hunting area, hiking, picnicking and

snowmobiling opportunities are also available. 2803 East 3300 North Road, Beaverville 60912; (815) 435-2218.

**Kickapoo State Park (7)**

West of Danville, the country’s first park to be built on surface-mined land is an angler’s paradise. The park also offers scuba diving, camping, plus miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858; (217) 442-4915.

**Lincoln Trail Homestead State Memorial (8)**

This is the site of Abraham Lincoln’s first Illinois home. Bisected by the Sangamon River, the site offers picnicking and hiking. 705 Spitler Park Drive, Mt. Zion 62549; (217) 864-3121.

**Lincoln Trail State Park (9)**

Within the thickly wooded land of this park lies American Beech Woods Nature Preserve, with ravines holding a beech-maple forest just as they did in pioneer days. The Lincoln family passed through this area, south of Marshall, en route from Indiana to Macon County in 1830. 16985 East 1350th Road, Marshall 62441; (217) 826-2222. ♿

**Middle Fork State Fish & Wildlife Area (10)**

The Middle Fork River is the first Illinois waterway to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Paddling is popular along the river’s length, which winds through a mixture of forests and prairies. Forest and upland game hunting are also popular at the 2,700-acre site. Horseback

riding on 35 miles of trails is available, as well as an equestrian campground. 10906 Kickapoo Park Road, Oakwood 61858; (217) 442-4915.

**Moraine View State Recreation Area (11)**

Ridges left by glacial movement, now dotted with scattered groves of hardwood trees, serve as the backdrop for this park. It offers year-round recreational opportunities from its location east of Bloomington-Normal and near Le Roy. Kickapoo and Potawatomi tribes lived here when settlers first came to the area. This facility has a concession stand with both indoor and patio seating, and also serves as a check station for permit pheasant hunters in the fall. 27374 Moraine View Park Road, Le Roy 61752; (309) 724-8032.

**Shelbyville State Fish & Wildlife Area (12)**

A 6,400-acre wildlife area on the north end of Lake Shelbyville, this park is composed of the Kaskaskia and West Okaw units. Hunting for waterfowl and forest and upland game is popular. Boat access is provided to accommodate anglers and hunters. RR 1, Box 42A, Bethany 61914; (217) 665-3112.

**Spitler Woods State Natural Area (13)**

Two-thirds of the area is a dedicated nature preserve containing one of the few remaining stands of old-growth timber in Illinois. Two trails wind through the nature preserve, allowing hikers to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the forest. Public facilities include a large, day-use area with many picnic areas convenient to parking spaces. 705 Spitler Park Drive, Mt. Zion 62549; (217) 864-3121.

**Walnut Point State Park (14)**

Known for its natural beauty and tranquil surroundings, the park is an oasis of hardwoods and wildlife amid fertile farm fields. Featuring a 60-acre lake, a 60-site campground, 2 hiking trails, numerous lakeside picnic areas and a seasonal concession operation, Walnut Point offers something for everyone. Please note, due to campground popularity, reservations are recommended during the busy summer months. 2331 ECR 370N, Oakland 61943; (217) 346-3336.

**Weldon Springs State Park (15)**

The park features natural springs, a concession with indoor seating, a campground with showers, interpretive trails, a 29-acre lake, and a wildlife observation deck. A one-room school and historic town hall, surrounded by native prairie, house the interpretive facilities. Located three miles southeast of Clinton, the area features a variety of year-round activities, including sledding, ice fishing and cross-country skiing. 4734 Weldon Springs Road, Clinton 61727; (217) 935-2644. ♿

**Wolf Creek State Park (16)**

Wildlife watching is a favorite pastime at Wolf Creek State Park on Lake Shelbyville’s eastern shore. Like nearby Eagle Creek State Park, the 2,000-acre site has several barrier-free facilities, such as year-round camping, picnicking and deer hunting. Come out and visit with the whole family and take part in all the fun activities. The park is accessible to visitors with disabilities. RR 1, Box 99, Windsor 61957; (217) 459-2831. ♿



## EAST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

	PARK	CLINTON LAKE	EAGLE CREEK (L)	FOX RIDGE (PC)	HARRY "BABE" WOODYARD	HIDDEN SPRINGS	IRROQUOIS COUNTY	KICKAPOO	LINCOLN TRAIL HOMESTEAD	LINCOLN TRAIL	MIDDLE FORK	MORAIN VIEW	SHELBYVILLE	SPITLER WOODS	WALNUT POINT	WELDON SPRINGS	WOLF CREEK (PC)
ACREAGE		9,307	1,463	1,683	1,106	1,229	2,557	4,000	162	1,022	2,700	1,687	6,400	202	671	550	1,967
CONCESSION		♿	•				•	♿		♿		♿			♿	♿	•
DRINKING WATER		♿	♿	♿		•	•	♿	♿	♿	•	♿		♿	♿	♿	•
HISTORIC STRUCTURE				•	•			♿		♿		♿				♿	
RESTAURANT			♿					♿		♿		♿			♿	♿	
RESTROOMS		♿	♿	♿		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	•
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		♿	•	•				♿		•		•			•	•	•
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff		♿		•				♿			•					†•	
BIKE TRAILS								M									
BOATING		♿	♿					♿		♿		♿	•		•	•	♿
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		♿						♿		♿		♿	♿		♿	•	♿
BOAT MOTORS		U	U					E	10			U	10		E	E	U
BOAT RENTALS								♿		♿		♿				•	
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) ♿ Canoe ✶ Horse		AA BS +	AC Y +	A + ~		C		AB C,D Y +	Y	AB C Y +	C D	AB BE D Y +		Y	AB C Y +	AB C,D Y +	AB C Y +
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)		♿		•				R	♿	•	•	R	♿	•		•	
FISHING		♿	•	♿	•	•		♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿		♿	♿	•
HIKING		♿	•	♿	•	•	•	♿		♿	•	♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿
HORSE CAMPGROUND											•	♿					•
HORSE RENTAL												♿					•
HORSE TRAILS		♿		•							•	♿					•
HUNTING		♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	♿	♿		•		♿
NATURE PRESERVE							•	•		•	•		•	♿	•		
PICNICKING		♿	♿	♿		•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿		♿	♿	♿	♿
SWIMMING BEACH		♿										♿					•

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

## CAMPING

**Class AA sites** Showers, electricity, sewer and water, vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$10/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

+ Advanced Reservations

~ Accepts Credit Cards

*Camping rates are subject to change*

<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

## BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only

**10** 10 horsepower limit

**15** 15 horsepower limit

**25** 25 horsepower limit

**U** Unlimited

♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities

**N** Nature preserve nearby

**L** Lodging/resort

**M** Mountain bike trail

**PC** Primitive cabins

West-central Illinois is home to some of the largest man-made lakes in the state, including Baldwin and Sangchris Lakes. Bordered by the Mississippi River on the west and bisected by the Illinois River, this area is popular among anglers and recreation seekers.

Thousands of visitors are drawn to the historic sites of west-central Illinois, which include Lincoln's New Salem and Springfield landmarks.

Another important site in the area is the Cahokia Mounds near Collinsville, which are the preserved remains of a prehistoric Indian city.

For more information about sites in west-central Illinois, contact Region 4 Office, Department of Natural Resources, 4521 Alton Commerce Parkway, Alton, IL 62002; (618) 462-1181; [dnr.r4parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r4parks@illinois.gov).

## Beaver Dam State Park (1)

Named for a beaver dam built more than a century ago to form the lake, Beaver Dam State Park is located just south of Carlinville. White squirrels are seen periodically within the park's boundaries. They are not albinos, but are a type of gray squirrel. 14548 Beaver Dam Lane, Plainview 62685; (217) 854-8020.

## Carlyle Lake State Fish &amp; Wildlife Area (2)

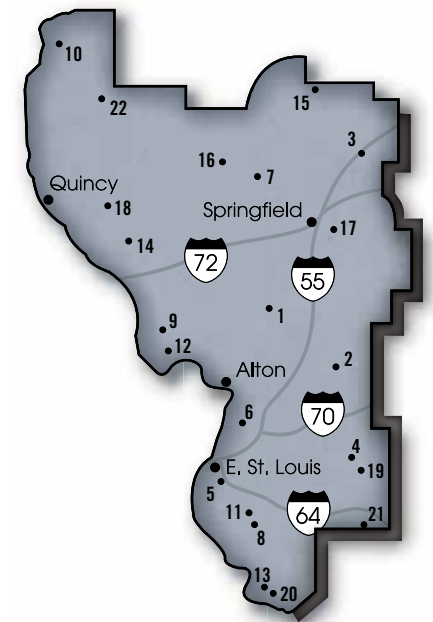
As a major stopping point for migrating ducks, geese and quail, this 9,486-acre area offers excellent public waterfowl hunting opportunities. The lake is near Vandalia, 50 miles east

of St. Louis. RR 2, Box 233, Vandalia 62471; (618) 425-3533.

## Coffeen Lake State

## Fish &amp; Wildlife Area (3)

Twenty-two species of fish are found in Coffeen Lake, including bass, white crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, yellow bass, bluegill and carp. This 1,100-acre lake is surrounded by native oak-hickory forests. There are several picnic areas and hiking trails, as well as limited hunting and trapping opportunities. 15084 North Fourth Avenue, Coffeen 62017; (217) 537-3351.





**Edward R. Madigan State Park (4)**

Native birds and wildlife abound in this picturesque park on the southern edge of Lincoln in Logan County. Escape to secluded picnic areas and trails or paddle along Salt Creek to discover the park, which also offers dove hunting in September, and pheasant and rabbit hunting in late fall. 1366 1010th Avenue, Lincoln 62656; (217) 735-2424.

**Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area (5)**

Best known by campers and boaters, Eldon Hazlet can be found on the southwest shore of Carlyle Lake, the largest man-made lake in Illinois. The reservoir's strong wind and expanse of water—18 miles by five miles—make it perfect for sailing. Controlled pheasant hunting is also available. Lakefront cottages are located in the park. See the "Plan Your Visit" chapter for more information. 20100 Hazlet Park Road, Carlyle 62231; (618) 594-3015.

**Frank Holten State Recreation Area (6)**

An urban park surrounded by East St. Louis, Frank Holten is an oasis for recreationists and wildlife. The 1,080 acres feature a championship 18-hole golf course and the Grand Marias Club House, which provides catering for special functions. There also are two fishing lakes, basketball courts and picnic shelters. 4500 Pocket Road, East St. Louis 62205; (618) 874-7920.

**Horseshoe Lake State Park (Madison County) (7)**

Only minutes away from St. Louis on Highway 111, Horseshoe Lake offers various hunting programs, camping, fishing,

hiking and cross-country skiing. The 2,850-acre park, which includes a natural oxbow-shaped lake, was home to the American Indians who built the nearby Cahokia Mounds. Campgrounds are open May 1–Sept. 30 only. 3321 Highway 111, Granite City 62040; (618) 931-0270. ♿

**Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area (8)**

This 16,551-acre site is located in Cass County. Approximately a third is wooded and there are 53 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and bicycling. Boating is permitted. Camping is available with showers, electricity, water and sewer hookup, and vehicular access. 10149 Highway 11, Chandlerville 62627; (217) 452-7741.

**Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area (9)**

Totaling more than 20,000 acres, Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area is a favorite of recreationists. Located 50 miles southeast of St. Louis, it contains 36 miles of rivers, the 2,018-acre Baldwin Lake and diverse wildlife. 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin 62217; (618) 785-2555.

**Mississippi River State Fish & Wildlife Area (10)**

Consisting of 15 wildlife management and 13 public access areas, the Mississippi River State Fish & Wildlife Area manages the majority of its 24,878 acres to accommodate waterfowl hunting and habitat enhancement. Its headquarters are located on Highway 100, approximately 11 miles north of Grafton. 17836 State Highway 100N., Grafton 62037; (618) 376-3303.

**Nauvoo State Park (11)**

When Mormons settled in the Hancock County community of Commerce City in 1839, they changed its name to Nauvoo, a Hebrew word for "pleasant land." Today, nearby Nauvoo State Park continues to earn the name with a 2-mile timbered nature trail and a 13-acre manmade fishing lake full of largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill. The park staff also manages Cedar Glen Natural Area, near Warsaw, which consists of 1,202 acres, mostly used for deer hunting. P.O. Box 426, Nauvoo 62354; (217) 453-2512.

**Peabody River King State Fish & Wildlife Area (12)**

Dominated by lakes and ponds, this area is a former coal-mining site located east of New Athens. Its 2,220 acres feature more than 20 fishing lakes and a waterfowl refuge. 8900 New Athens Darmstadt Road, New Athens 62264; (618) 475-9339.

**Père Marquette State Park (13)**

Known as Père, the French word for "Father," missionary Jacques Marquette explored this area with Louis Joliet in 1673 upon reaching the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Père Marquette State Park, northwest of St. Louis near the Illinois community of Grafton, encompasses 8,050 acres. 13112 Visitor Center Lane, Grafton 62037; (618) 786-3323. ♿

**Randolph County State Recreation Area (14)**

Amid rolling hills and abundant upland game cover, this area is a hunter's dream, inhabited by quail, deer (archery only), squirrel, dove and rabbit. Bass and channel catfish can be caught in its 69-acre lake.



Willard Clay

A stunning sunset paints the sky multiple colors at Sangchris Lake Recreation Area.

Located five miles north of Chester, the site provides equestrian trails, picnicking and camping facilities. 4301 South Lake Drive, Chester 62233; (618) 826-2706. ♿

**Ray Norbut State Fish & Wildlife Area (15)**

With nearly 1,100 of its 1,380 acres composed primarily of oak and hickory, this area offers exceptional habitat for deer and squirrel and is good for hunting. In the winter, sightseers often spot bald eagles along the Illinois River. Located just 1.5 miles south of Valley City. RR 1, Box 55C, Griggsville 62340; (217) 833-2811.

**Sand Ridge State Forest (16)**

The largest state forest in Illinois, Sand Ridge State Forest has over 7,500 acres of native oak-hickory hardwoods and pines. Just 25 miles southwest of Peoria in Mason County, Sand Ridge supports diverse flora and fauna and a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including camping, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, bird watching and picnicking. Over 50 miles of marked trails run through the rolling



sandy terrain. 25799 East Country Road 2300 North, P.O. Box 111, Forest City, 61532; (309) 597-2212.

### Sanganois State Fish & Wildlife Area (17)

A 10,360-acre bottomland environment of sloughs and backwater lakes, Sanganois provides a refuge for migratory waterfowl and a public duck hunting area. Located in southwestern Mason County at the junction of the Sangamon and Illinois rivers, it also offers upland and forest game hunting. 3594 County Road 200 North, Chandlerville 62627; (309) 546-2628.

### Sangchris Lake State Recreation Area (18)

Nestled in native forests and brimming with a record-setting bass population, the three-fingered lake extends into both Sangamon and Christian counties, earning it the name "Sangchris." It also is a waterfowl, dove, deer and upland game hunting area. 9898 Cascade Road, Rochester 62563; (217) 498-9208.

### Siloam Springs State Park (19)

Siloam Springs offers true natural beauty. The forested terrain is dotted with wildflowers and accented with a sparkling lake, which is popular for activities including hunting, fishing, hiking and nature appreciation. A concession stand with boat and canoe rental operates seasonally. The park is located ten miles south of Clayton off Route 24, or six miles north of Route 104 on County Highway. 938 East 3003rd Lane, Clayton 62324; (217) 894-6205. 🚰

### South Shore State Park (20)

Across the lake from Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area, South Shore State Park lies on Carlyle Lake's

southeast side. There's no horsepower limit on boat motors, making the 26,000-acre lake popular for boaters. 20100 Hazlet Park Road, Carlyle 62231; (618) 594-3015.

### Turkey Bluffs State Fish & Wildlife Area (21)

Hike, horseback ride and view wildlife at Turkey Bluffs State Fish & Wildlife Area, two miles south of Chester. Hunting for upland game, furbearers and deer is encouraged on the 2,265 acres overlooking the Mississippi River. 4301 South Lake Drive, Chester 62233; (618) 826-2706.

### Washington County State Recreation Area (22)

This 248-acre lake, fed by two creeks, is the focal point of the Washington County. Located four miles south of Nashville, the recreation area offers several barrier-free facilities, including camping, hunting, picnicking and a fishing pier. Two lakefront cabins are also available for rent. 18500 Conservation Drive, Nashville 62263; (618) 327-3137.

### Weinberg-King State Fish & Wildlife Area (23)

William Creek meanders through Weinberg-King State Park, providing habitat for an abundance of wildlife. Set on 772 acres of rolling terrain, steep hillsides and locust tree forest, Weinberg-King becomes especially popular in winter for its cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The park is located three miles east of Augusta (and 30 minutes from Macomb) on Highway 101. P.O. Box 203, Augusta 62311; (217) 392-2345. 🚰

## WEST-CENTRAL ILLINOIS

PARK	BEAVER DAM (PC)	COFFEEN LAKE	EDWARD R. MADIGAN	ELDON HAZLET (L, PC)	FRANK HOLTEN	HORSESHOE LAKE (H)	JIM EDGAR PANTHER (PC)	KASKASKIA RIVER	MISSISSIPPI RIVER	NAUVOO (H)	PEABODY-RIVER KING	PERE MARQUETTE (HL, PC)	RANDOLPH COUNTY	RAY NORBUT	SAND RIDGE	SANGANOIS	SANGCHRIS LAKE (PC)	SILLOAM SPRINGS (PC)	SOUTH SHORE	TURKEY BLUFFS	WASHINGTON COUNTY (PC)	WEINBERG-KING
ACREAGE	744	2,750	751	3,500	1,080	2,854	16,551	20,000	24,878	148	2,220	8,050	1,103	1,380	7,112	10,360	5,280	5,586	800	2,264	1,440	772
CONCESSION	🚰		🚰	🚰		•						🚰	🚰		🚰		🚰	🚰			🚰	
DRINKING WATER	🚰	•	🚰	🚰	•	•	🚰	🚰		🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰		🚰	•	•	🚰	•		🚰	🚰
HISTORIC STRUCTURE				🚰						•		🚰		•	•			🚰				
RESTAURANT	🚰				🚰							🚰										
RESTROOMS	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	•	🚰	🚰		🚰		🚰	🚰	•		🚰	🚰
SANITARY DUMP STATION*	•			🚰		•	🚰			•		🚰	•		•		•	•	•		🚰	🚰
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff					†							🚰										
BIKE TRAILS			•				•					•										
BOATING	🚰	🚰	•	•	•	🚰	🚰	🚰	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•	
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP	•	🚰	•	🚰	•	🚰	🚰	🚰	•	•	•	•	🚰			•	•	🚰	•		•	
BOAT MOTORS	E 25			U	10	50	E/10	U	U	E	10	U	10			U	25	E	U		10	
BOAT RENTALS	•																	•			•	
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) 🚰 Canoe camping 🐾 Horse camping	A BS Y			A C D Y + 🚰	C Y +	A AA + ~				A BS Y	A BS Y +	C BE D Y +	C BE D Y +	C D Y			A BS C Y +	A BS D +	C		A C Y	BE C D Y
CANOE ACCESS / RENTAL (R)	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
FISHING	🚰	•	•	🚰	•	🚰	🚰	🚰	•	•	•	•	🚰	•		•	•	🚰	•	•	•	🚰
HIKING	•	•	🚰	🚰		•	•	🚰		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HORSE CAMPGROUND						🚰								•	•		•	•				🚰
HORSE RENTAL												🚰										
HORSE TRAILS							•	•				•			•		•		•		•	•
HUNTING	•	•	🚰	•	•	•	🚰	🚰	•		•	🚰	🚰	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
NATURE PRESERVE			N					•		N		•	N	•	•	N	N	N		N	•	
PICNICKING	•	•	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	🚰	•	🚰	🚰		🚰	•	•	🚰	•		🚰	🚰
SWIMMING BEACH																						

\*Fee for non-campers

### KEY

#### CAMPING

**Class AA sites** Showers, electricity, sewer and water, vehicular access; \$25/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class A sites** Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

**Class BE sites** Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

**Class BS sites** Showers and vehicular access, \$10/night

**Class C sites** Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

**Class D sites** Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

**Class Y sites** Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

+ Advanced Reservations  
~ Accepts Credit Cards

Camping rates are subject to change  
<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

#### BOATING MOTORS

**E** Electric trolling only

**10** 10 horsepower limit

**15** 15 horsepower limit

**25** 25 horsepower limit

**U** Unlimited

🚰 Accessible to visitors with disabilities

N Nature preserve nearby

H Historic/archeological site

L Lodging/resort

PC Primitive cabins





# South Illinois

Southern Illinois, with its bald cypress swamps and heron rookeries, is reminiscent of the bayous of the Deep South. The Cache River State Natural Area and Heron Pond Nature Preserve are examples of the rich wetland ecosystems found in this region. It is also home to wooded hillsides at Shawnee National Forest, intriguing rock formations at Giant City and Ferne Clyffe state parks and commercial and recreational boat traffic of the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers in this part of the state.

Fort Massac State Park stands in Metropolis at the state's southern tip as a sentinel in the course of early American history. The fort was used during the French-Indian, the Revolutionary and the Civil wars. Superman, also from Metropolis, has a statue in his honor in the town square.

For more information about sites in southern Illinois, contact Region 5 Office, Department

of Natural Resources, 11731 State Highway 37, Benton, IL 62812; (618) 435-8138. E-mail: [dnr.r5parks@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.r5parks@illinois.gov).

## Beall Woods State Park (1)

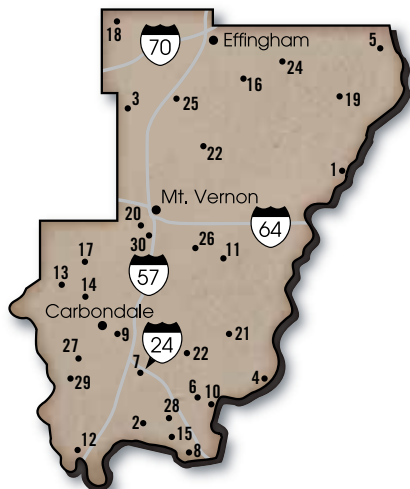
Listed in the United States Register of Natural Landmarks as the "Forest of the Wabash," this park supports 64 species of trees within its 635 acres. Several miles of scenic nature trails start at the visitor center. The park is six miles south of Mount Carmel. 9285 Beall Woods Avenue, Mt. Carmel 62863; (618) 298-2442.

## Cache River State Natural Area (2)

This 14,489-acre natural area has three nature preserves—Heron Pond/Wildcat Bluff, Little Black Slough and Section 8 Woods. Nationally significant for the swamps found at the northern portion of their range, the area contains 100 state threatened or endangered plant and animal species and 11 state champion trees. Visitors enjoy birdwatching, hunting, wildlife watching and hiking. Visitors can start their visit to the Cache River by experiencing the new Henry N. Barkhausen Wetlands Center, open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; (618) 657-2064; 930 Sunflower Lane, Belknap 62908; (618) 634-9678.

## Cave-in-Rock State Park (3)

This park is named for a 55-foot-wide, 500-foot-long cave that overlooks the Ohio River along the Illinois-Kentucky border in extreme southern Illinois. From 1797 to the mid-1830s, the roost served as a headquarters for bands of famous outlaws.



**SYLVANIA**

# DUSK to DAWN CHALLENGE



## GRAND PRIZE

An enlightening trip for two to Acadia National Park for its annual Night Sky Festival. [AcadiaNightSkyFestival.com](http://AcadiaNightSkyFestival.com)



## FIRST PRIZE

Lower your energy bills! 25 lucky winners will receive SYLVANIA ULTRA LED bulbs! [SYLVANIA.com](http://SYLVANIA.com)



## SECOND PRIZE

50 winners will fight the bite against night-loving biting insects with OFF! Deep Woods® Dry Insect Repellent. [KeepsBugsOff.com](http://KeepsBugsOff.com)

Scan and Enter Today!



Pledge to get outside and enjoy the summer nights, and be entered to win! Enter at [OhRanger.com/dusktodawn](http://OhRanger.com/dusktodawn) and get information about the night sky and other after-hours, outdoor activities.

Go to [OhRanger.com/challenge](http://OhRanger.com/challenge) for official rules



Sunlight streams through the trees and reflects off the water at Horseshoe Lake State Park.

The park offers camping, picnicking, hiking, boating and fishing. Located in the park is Cave-in-Rock Restaurant and Lodge. #1 New State Park Road, Box 338, Cave-in-Rock 62919; Park Office: (618) 289-4325; Lodge: (618) 289-4545.

#### **Crawford County State Fish & Wildlife Area (4)**

Managed primarily for hunting and fishing, this 1,100-acre area of wildlife habitat and nine fishing ponds is two miles west and one mile south of Hutsonville. 12609 East 1700th Avenue, Hutsonville 62433; (618) 563-4405.

#### **Dixon Springs State Park (5)**

During the 19th century, springs of mineral-enriched water attracted people to the community of Dixon Springs. Today, park visitors may swim in its outdoor

pool or soak up the relaxing atmosphere of the moss-covered boulders, craggy overhangs and rushing brooks. Route 146, Golconda 62938; (618) 949-3304 or (618) 949-3394. ♿

#### **Ferne Clyffe State Park (6)**

Located south of Marion, this park is defined by the fascinating flora and geologic formations of the scenic Shawnee Hills. Trails wind past an intermittent waterfall and the largest shelter bluff in southern Illinois. Route #37 South, P.O. Box 10, Gorleville 62939; (618) 995-2411.

#### **Fort Massac State Park (7)**

Dedicated the first Illinois state park in 1908 and overlooking the Ohio River at Metropolis, this park has a military history predating the Revolutionary War. October's Fort Massac Encampment, and several other living history weekends, bring the past to life for history buffs. The historic site also has an American fort built in 1802, visitor center, museum and day use area offering camping, picnic areas with shelters, trails, boat ramp and hunting. The museum has artifacts from the 1757 French occupation of the area to the early American time period. There is a log cabin that shows family living conditions around 1802. The museum is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1308 East Fifth Street, Metropolis 62960; (618) 524-4712. ♿

#### **Giant City State Park (8)**

Tucked into the Shawnee Hills near Carbondale, Giant City State Park tells a geologic tale 315 million years old. The rectangular joint pattern of the area's Pennsylvanian bedrock, called Pounds sandstone, is the basis for the park's

unusual rock formations, which, to early settlers, reportedly looked like the streets of a "giant city." Giant City Lodge is located within the park. Giant City Lodge, 460 Giant City Lodge Road, Makanda 62958; (618) 457-4921; Giant City Visitor Center, 235 Giant City Road, Makanda 62958; (618) 457-4836. ♿

#### **Golconda Marina (9)**

Recognized as one of the finest fishing and boating areas in the nation, this marina is located on a scenic stretch of the Ohio River and the gateway to the Ohio River's Smithland Pool. The 619-acre full-service marina has more than 200 slips and is within a short drive of Dixon Springs and Cave-in-Rock state parks. See the "Things To Do" chapter for more information. Box 178, RR 2, Golconda 62958; (618) 683-5875.

#### **Hamilton County State**

##### **Fish & Wildlife Area—Dolan Lake (10)**

Located about eight miles southeast of McLeansboro, this area is home to 76-acre Dolan Lake, which teems with largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and walleye. Wildlife food and shelter plots support game populations for hunting on the site's 1,680 acres. RR 4, Box 242, McLeansboro 62859; (618) 773-4340.

##### **Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (Alexander County) (11)**

This area is noted for its large stands of tupelo, swamp cottonwood and cypress trees. Situated northwest of Cairo in Alexander County, the site is known for its fall and winter Canada goose and bald eagle populations. Campground open



May 1–Sept. 30. P.O. Box 85, Miller City 62962; (618) 776-5689. ♿

#### **Kinkaid Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (12)**

Located near Murphysboro, this 3,685-acre site is dominated by sandstone bluffs, rolling hills and an oak-hickory forest. Picnicking, fishing, boating and hunting are popular. 52 Cinder Hill Drive, Murphysboro 62966; (618) 684-2867.

#### **Lake Murphysboro State Park (13)**

With its principal attraction being a man-made lake totaling 145 acres, this park draws anglers in search of largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie and channel catfish. Much of the 1,000 acres are wooded and include a large variety of native wild orchids. The northwest section of the park features an archery range as well. 52 Cinder Hill Drive, Murphysboro 62966; (618) 684-2867.

#### **Mermet Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (14)**

The site offers a 460 acre fishing lake, picnic area, walking trails, hunting, more than 110 acres of nature preserve/natural area, several restored wetlands and a restored prairie with an interpretive trail. This area is known for its pan fishing and waterfowl hunting and has become popular for wildlife and bird watching. A national archery tournament is held here each June. 1812 Grinnel Road, Belknap 62908; (618) 524-5577.

#### **Newton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (15)**

Southwest of Newton in Jasper County, this 6,400-acre area hosts a variety of wildlife, most notably the state





endangered prairie chicken and river otter. The site offers excellent fishing, ample picnic areas and a picturesque shoreline trail system, as well as a 1,775-acre cooling lake. 3490 East 500th Avenue, Newton 62448; (618) 783-3478.

#### **Pyramid State Park (16)**

An acquisition of 16,000 acres of land makes this park Illinois' largest, with approximately 19,000 acres to enjoy. Expect excellent fishing, waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Five miles south of Pinckneyville on Highway 127. 1562 Pyramid Park Road, Pinckneyville 62274; (618) 357-2574.

#### **Ramsey Lake State Recreation Area (17)**

Rolling hills, timbered shoreline and beautiful Ramsey Lake make this park a unique and popular recreation spot. Visitors will enjoy the picturesque woods, secluded picnic areas and fishing and hunting opportunities. It's popular with people who just want to relax and outdoor enthusiasts who hike, hunt, fish and camp. The 1,960-acre area is located one mile northwest of Ramsey in Fayette County. P.O. Box 97, Ramsey 62080; (618) 423-2215.

#### **Red Hills State Park (18)**

This 967-acre site offers wooded hills, picturesque meadows, nature areas and an abundance of wildlife. Camping, hiking, fishing and hunting are popular. The park is home to the Trace Inn Restaurant (see the "Plan Your Visit" chapter), and manages the 627-acre Chauncey Marsh Wetland. 3571 Ranger Lane, Sumner 62466; (618) 936-2469. ♿

#### **Rend Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (19)**

Anglers looking for crappie, catfish and bass drop their lines at this area, located on the 18,900-acre Rend Lake, south of Mount Vernon. Valuable habitat exists for many species of ducks, shorebirds and wading birds. 10885 East Jefferson Road, Bonnie 62816; (618) 279-3110.

#### **Saline County State Fish & Wildlife Area (20)**

Five miles southwest of Equality, this multi-use site offers many opportunities for the sportsman and recreationalist alike. The site has a 105-acre lake, 1,000-acre hunting area, 43 class C camp sites, a seven-mile bike path, an equestrian campground and seasonal trout pond. It is also home to an 8-foot-tall bronze statue of the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. 85 Glen O. Jones Road, Equality 62934; (618) 276-4405.

#### **Sahara Woods State Fish & Wildlife Area (21)**

Donated to the state in 1998, this area was once a thriving strip coal mine. It offers archery and late winter firearm deer hunting along with fishing on its 375 acres of water throughout the site. 1210 Tipple Road, Carrier Mills 62917; (618) 994-2022.

#### **Sam Dale Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area (22)**

One mile northwest of Johnsonville, in Wayne County, this multi-use recreational area with a 194-acre lake provides habitat for shorebirds and upland game and offers camping, hunting, hiking,

fishing and horseback riding. RR 1, Box 101, Johnsonville 62850; (618) 835-2292. ♿

#### **Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area (23)**

The park boasts a 183-acre lake and offers picnicking, hiking, camping, fishing and hunting. The 1,100-acre site is three miles northeast of Newton. 13225 East State Highway 33, Newton 62448; (618) 783-2661.

#### **Stephen A. Forbes State Recreation Area (24)**

A 585-acre lake surrounded by forest and 115 camping sites highlights this park. Fishing, hunting, swimming, boating, waterskiing, picnicking, hiking and horseback riding are popular at this 3,100-acre site northeast of Salem. 6924 Omega Road, Kinmundy 62854; (618) 547-3381.

#### **Ten Mile Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area (25)**

Located in Jefferson and Hamilton counties, these 5,910 acres vary from flat bottomlands to rolling forestlands. Fields throughout the site provide 1,000 acres of planted food for wildlife. Hunting for rabbit, quail and waterfowl is allowed. You can fish in its 250 acres of lakes and ponds. RR 1, Box 179, Rt. 14, McLeansboro 62859; (618) 643-2862.

#### **Trail of Tears State Forest (26)**

Set among the rugged slopes of the Ozark Hills in southern Illinois, this forested site offers picnic shelters with fireplaces and grills. In spring, up to 620 native species of flowering plants are on display along a network of trails for

hiking and horseback riding. The forest is located five miles northwest of Jonesboro. 3240 State Forest Road, Jonesboro 62952; (618) 833-4910.

#### **Tunnel Hill State Trail (27)**

Located in southern Illinois, this 45-mile-long biking/hiking trail begins at Feazel Street in Harrisburg and passes through seven more communities in four counties on its way to the Barkhausen/Cache River Wetlands Center in Whitehill. Bikers and hikers will pass through scenic farmland, hills, bluffs and bottomland areas in the Shawnee National Forest and the Cache River State Natural Area. Visitor Center, State Highway 146 East, Vienna 62995; (618) 658-2168. ♿

#### **Union County State Fish & Wildlife Area (28)**

Nearly 100,000 of the 850,000 Canada Geese spend the cold-weather months at this site. Numerous shallow sloughs and other water areas are scattered across its 6,202 acres, located southwest of Jonesboro on Highway 3. 2755 Refuge Road, Jonesboro 62952; (618) 833-5175 or (618) 833-6921.

#### **Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area (29)**

This 3,300-acre paradise offers outstanding opportunities for field trials, hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking and biking on the new four-mile trail. The park's Rend Lake Resort overlooks an 18,000-acre reservoir of the same name. 11094 Ranger Road, Whittington 62897; (618) 629-2320.



SOUTH ILLINOIS	PARK	BEALL WOODS	CACHE RIVER	CARLYLE LAKE	CAVE-IN-ROCK (L)	CRAWFORD COUNTY	DIXON SPRINGS (POOL)	FERNE CLIFFE	FORT MASSAC (H)	GIANT CITY (L)	GOLCONDA MARINA	HAMILTON COUNTY	HORSESHOE LAKE
ACREAGE		635	14,328	9,486	204	1,129	931	2,430	1,499	4,055	619	1,683	9,550
CONCESSION					♿		♿		•	♿	♿	♿	
DRINKING WATER		♿	•		♿		♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
HISTORIC STRUCTURE				•					•	•			
RESTAURANT				♿						♿		♿	
RESTROOMS		♿	♿		♿	•	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
SANITARY DUMP STATION*		•			♿		♿	•	♿	♿		•	♿
VISITOR CENTER † With Interpretive Staff		†	†						†	•			
BIKE TRAILS				•					•			•	
BOATING		•	•		♿				•		•	•	•
BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP		•	•	•	♿				•	•	•	•	♿
BOAT MOTORS		E	10		U				U	10	U	10	10
BOAT RENTALS											•	•	
CAMPING (See key for camp site type) 🚣 Canoe 🐾 Horse		C♿			A♿ BS Y	BE♿ D Y	A♿ BE♿ C Y	A♿ BS C♿ Y	A♿ C Y		C	A♿ C Y	A♿ BE C
CANOE ACCESS			•		♿					•		•	•
FISHING		•	•	•	♿	•	♿	♿	•	•	•	•	•
HIKING		•	♿	•	•	•	♿	♿	•	♿	•	•	
HORSE CAMPGROUND								•		A			
HORSE RENTAL									•	♿			
HORSE TRAILS						•		•	•	•		•	
HUNTING		•	•	•		•	♿	•	•	•	•	•	♿
NATURE PRESERVE		•	•				•	•	•	•			•
PICNICKING		♿			♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	•	•	♿
SWIMMING BEACH							♿						

\*Fee for non-campers

## KEY

## CAMPING

Class A sites Showers, electricity and vehicular access; \$20/night<sup>1</sup>

Class BE sites Electricity and vehicular access; \$18/night

Class BS sites Showers and vehicular access; \$10/night

Class C sites Vehicular access or walk-in w/ shower access; \$8/night

+ Advanced Reservations

~ Accepts Credit Cards

Class D sites Tent camping or primitive sites (walk-in or backpack) with no vehicular access; \$6/night

Class Y sites Youth groups only; \$2/person with minimum daily fee of \$20

Camping rates are subject to change

<sup>1</sup>Additional \$10 fee for holiday weekend

♿ Accessible to visitors with disabilities

## BOATING MOTORS

E Electric trolling only

10 10 horsepower limit

15 15 horsepower limit

25 25 horsepower limit

U Unlimited

N Nature preserve nearby

H Historic/archeological site

L Lodging/resort

M Mountain bike trail

PC Primitive cabins



KINKAID LAKE	LAKE MURPHYSBORO	MERMET LAKE	NEWTON LAKE	PYRAMID	RAMSEY LAKE (PC♿)	RED HILLS (PC♿)	REND LAKE	SAHARA WOODS	SALINE COUNTY	SAM DALE LAKE	SAM PARR	STEPHEN A. FORBES (PC♿)	TEN MILE CREEK	TRAIL OF TEARS	TUNNEL HILL	UNION COUNTY	WAYNE FITZGERRELL
3,685	1,024	2,625	6,400	19,000	1,960	967	12,690	4,004	1,270	1,302	1,133	3,100	5,910	4,993	824	6,202	3,300
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U	10	U	25	10	E	E	U	E/10	10	10	10	U	10			10	U
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	A♿ BS Y			C D Y	A♿ BE C D Y +~	A♿ C Y			C	BE♿ D Y +	BE♿ C D Y	A♿ BS C Y		C D Y +			A♿ D Y
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Illinois DNR



Illinois DNR







# Preservation

Working together with both residents and visitors, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) strives to protect the state's diverse wildlife and scenic beauty for present and future generations to enjoy.

## Forestry & Nature Preserves

The state's forests, which comprise 12 percent of Illinois' land area, provide habitat to wildlife and more than 250 species of trees. Since most of the population lives in urban areas, the benefits of urban forests—temperature modification, energy conservation, abatement of air, water and noise pollution—have become increasingly valuable to the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Nature Preserves System, the oldest such system in the nation, comprises 513 sites encompassing more than 94,133 acres of registered land and water and allowing public access (at owner's discretion) to prairies, forests, marshes, swamps, fens and savannas.

## Division of Natural Heritage (DNH)

The Division of Natural Heritage coordinates conservation efforts aimed at protecting some of the state's rarest natural resources. It works in partnership with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission to implement monitoring and recovery efforts for imperiled natural communities.

## ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) is a private not for profit IRS registered 501(C)(3) corporation dedicated to providing future generations opportunities to experience and learn the value of our natural areas. The ICF does not receive taxpayer funds and is supported entirely through private donations. The foundation also administers funds from grants awarded to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and assists in executing private land donations to the IDNR. Created in 1994 on the recommendation of the Conservation Congress, ICF provides an avenue for private and institutional funding for conservation efforts of the IDNR. To date the foundation has administered over \$30 million in federal, private and conservation organization grants. Recently,

following a generous gift of 750 acres of wildlife habitat 20 miles west of Rockford, the ICF refocused its primary purpose. From the Robert Torstenson family and Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, the ICF renamed the property Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center (TYCEC). They opened it to kids for conservation learning experiences, such as hiking, hunting, fishing and outings for inner-city youth. For many, it is their first camping experience. Science and art classes are conducted by local schools and more than 200 teachers have visited the property to see how to adapt it to curriculum. TYCEC is open to and free for all kids to learn, grow and find adventure. For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [ilcf.org](http://ilcf.org) or call (217) 785-2003.

**A park is a gift.**

(Pass it on.)

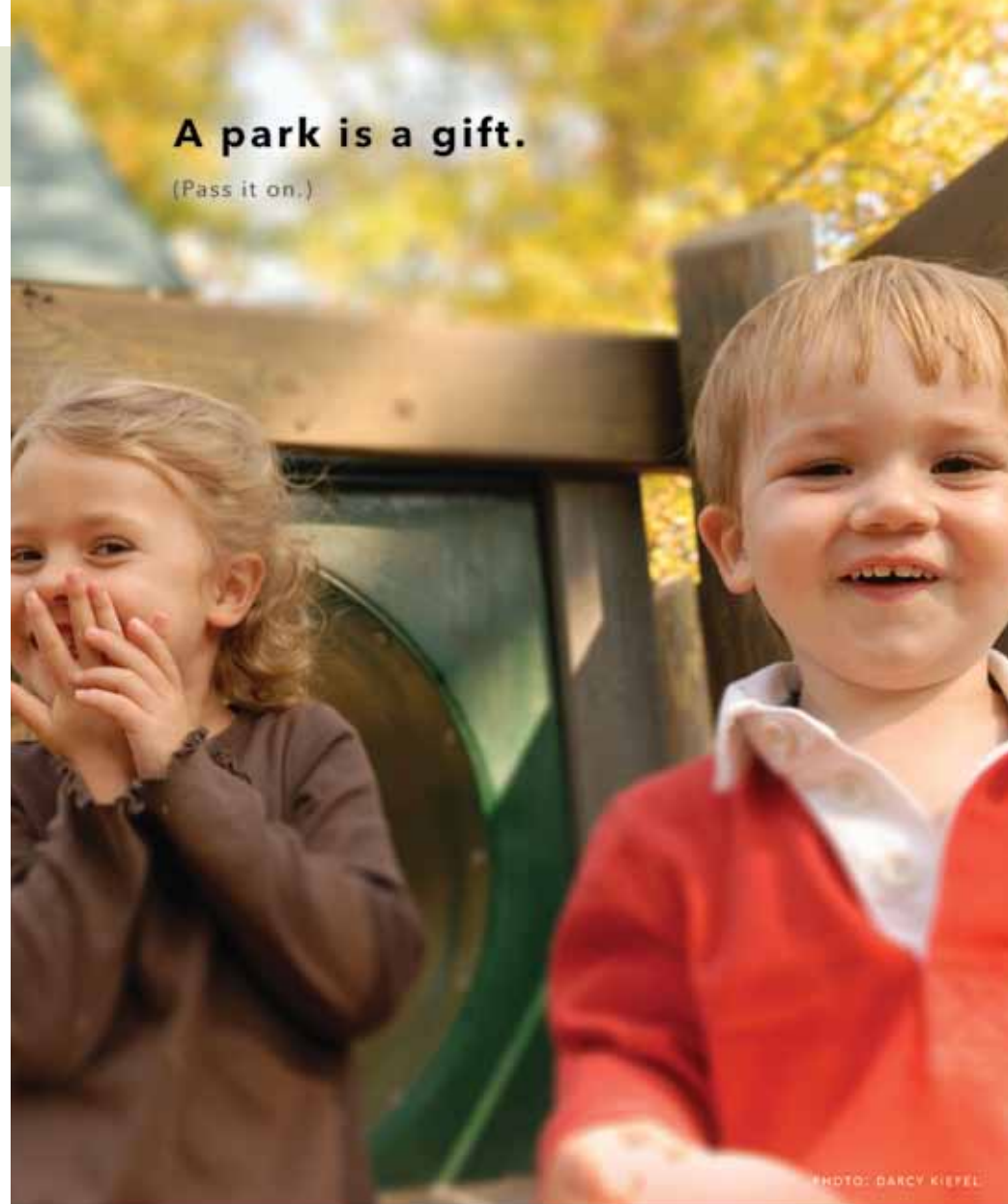


PHOTO: DARCY KISPEL

SOMEWHERE, not far from where you live, The Trust for Public Land is protecting the places that make your community special—from neighborhood playgrounds, gardens, and trails to vast wilderness escapes.

Visit [tpl.org](http://tpl.org) today and preserve the gift of parks for generations to come.

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# Photography

Photographing flora and fauna is a fun and easy way to connect with and better understand any park's ecosystem. Charismatic large mammals—bears, moose, wolves, elk—often take our attention away from other park inhabitants, particularly the **birds, bugs and blooms** that paint the landscape with vibrant colors. Don't overlook them. As you head into the field to photograph these subjects, observe your surroundings and try to manage the variables that are within your control. Prepare your camera settings in advance to give yourself more time and flexibility to react and respond to your subject and successfully capture their images.

## Blooms

The beauty of flowers, so to speak, is that they attract lots of attention. They bloom, inviting pollinators, that attract predators, that in turn attract larger predators. The entire cycle of life presents itself in a small microcosm of the park. Even if you don't get to see the predator-prey interactions, photographing flowers is a great place to start. Unlike birds and bugs, flowers don't fly off to feed their young or return to the hive. You'll have a chance to flex your creative muscles by using different settings, lenses and perspectives with few if any disruptions.

Good lighting is the most critical factor. At dusk and dawn, the light is soft and sculpting and will illuminate your subject to evoke an ethereal mood. Indirect light, ample on overcast days or under a shady tree, will help you capture the subtleties and magnificence of flowers in bloom.

It boasts deep contrast, which amplifies color and texture. As you photograph, change your perspective or location until everything within your frame is evenly lit.

Use a **macro** lens to capture the flower's incredible detail or switch to aperture priority and shoot with low *f*-stops to isolate your subject if your background is particularly busy. Photograph at the same height as the flowers to draw your viewer's eye into the frame or position yourself directly over the flower to abstract color, line, pattern and texture. Complement your subject with your framing: a vertical layout works for long, slender blooms while horizontal one may be more appropriate for a field of flowers. For a more dynamic arrangement, shift your subject away from the middle and into the corners of your frame. Move around and experiment with different vantage points and compositions to discover what is most impactful.

## Bugs

You'll need a macro lens (or macro setting) and patience to capture insects that seem to exist in a state of perpetual motion. This lens will allow you to focus close to reveal the incredible detail of an insect's form. Select a location where your subject and background are evenly lit. Consistent lighting will keep the focus on the primary subject, rather than on distracting areas of contrast. Use your flash to change the quality of light and the overall mood of your image. A fast shutter speed will freeze motion and help isolate and articulate a bug's busy motion. Locate yourself near your subject's level; the closer you

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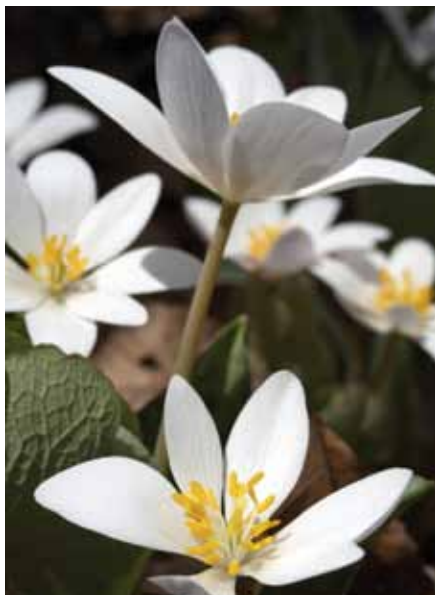
## BE THE TALK OF THE TRAIL







Jim Jurica



James Vallee



Tony Campbell

Photographing birds, bugs and blooms enables you to practice a wide variety of skills, ranging from taking close-ups to experimenting with different lighting scenarios.

move to their viewpoint, the more accurate and intimate your portrayal will be.

## Birds

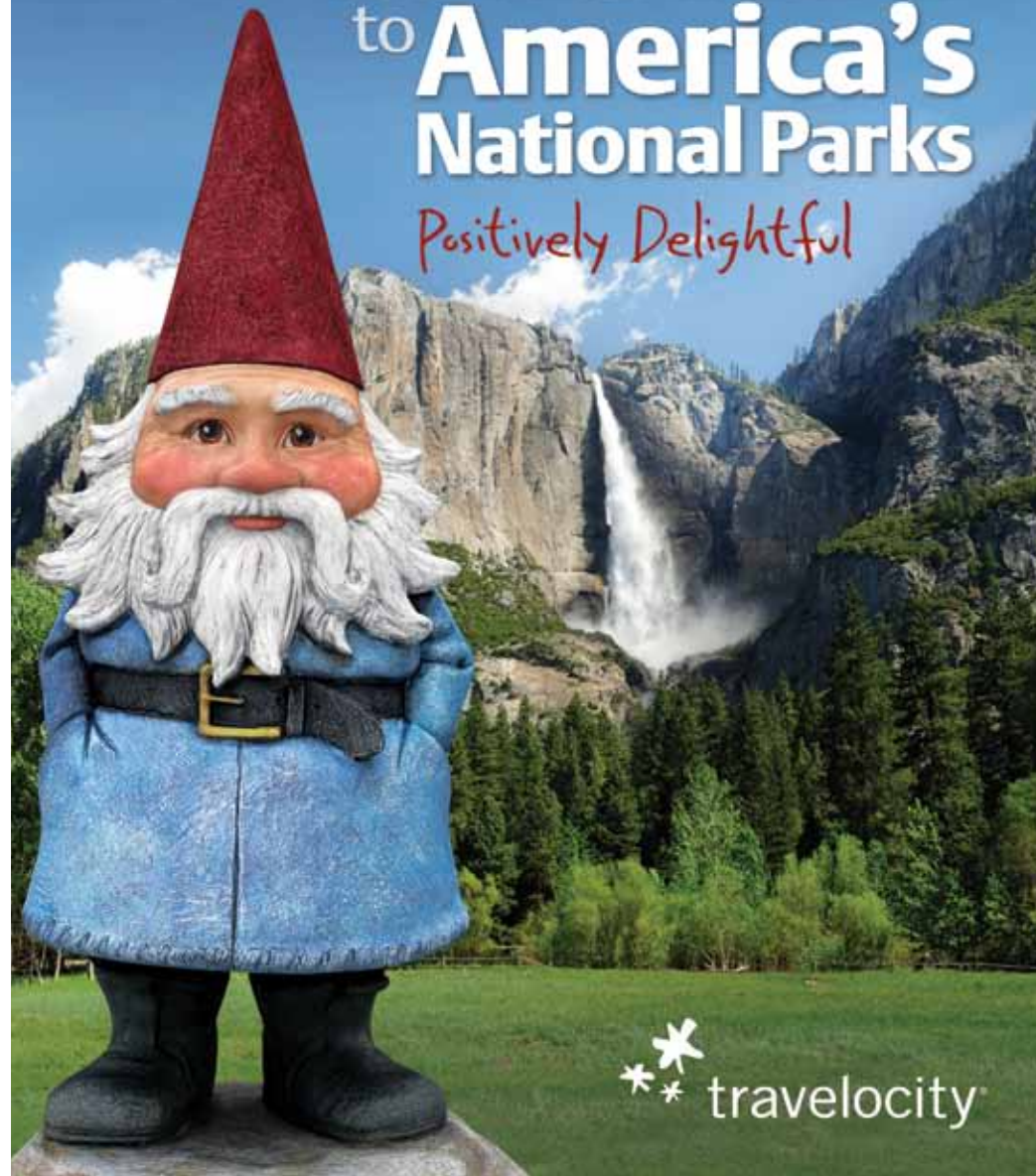
While birds are easier to spot than bugs, they are also much more perceptive to human presence and are apt to fly off, which presents some challenges. Be thoughtful and quiet to minimize disruptions—you'll be able to stay in their space longer and take more photos. Since your quarry could be aloft, perched on a distant branch or too far to access on foot, plan to use a telephoto lens and a tripod. To **freeze flight**, use the shutter speed priority mode on your camera. To create a compelling portrait, use the aperture priority mode to control depth-of-field. Select low values,  $f/4.0$ - $5.6$  or below, which decrease the sharpness of the background and will make your eagle, tanager, puffin or kestrel really pop.

Try to position your subject's eyes—the primary link connecting it and the viewer—on one of the four **hot spots**. Leaving space in the direction the bird looks or travels will convey a strong sense of movement if the bird is flying, or allow the viewer to follow its gaze. This composition tells a story and will make the viewer wonder—where is that bird going and what does it see? Keep your eyes open and be alert to whatever may fly into your frame and remember that the most compelling compositions highlight a bird's behavior. Some of the best shots are the result of being in the right place at the right time.

By managing the variables that are within our control, we are able to fully observe and absorb our surroundings, and finally, react or respond to the spontaneity and wildness of nature that makes these places so captivating.

# Roam like the Gnome to America's National Parks

*Positively Delightful*







# Just For Kids

Illinois State Parks offer excellent activities for kids. From fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities, to museums and old military forts, Illinois State Parks let kids explore nature as well as history.

## Northwest Region

Hike the 1.5 mile **Lincoln Hiking Trail** at Big River State Forest. The trail commemorates Abraham Lincoln's 1832 march with 2,000 militiamen to fight in the Blackhawk War. Visit the 48-foot-tall concrete monolith of an American Indian at Lowden State Park. Take a scenic canoe paddle on the Mackinaw



Wee ones will love canoeing at Argyle Lake State Park.

River at Mackinaw River State Fish & Wildlife Area.

## Northeast Region

Visit the **Effigy Tumuli** at Buffalo Rock State Park, an earth art sculpture representing the wildlife native to the Illinois River Area. Horseback ride at Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area. Fish for bass, crappie, channel and catfish in Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area.

## West-Central Region

Spot the white squirrels at Beaver Dam State Park. Go birdwatching at the picturesque Edward R. Madigan State Fish & Wildlife Area. Bring a picnic lunch to Sand Ridge State Forest, the largest state forest in Illinois.

## East-Central Region

Take a scenic hike at Eagle Creek State Park, known for its beautiful natural scenery. Paddle a 5-mile stretch of beautiful river at Fox Ridge State Park. Stop by for a lesson at the Union School at Weldon Springs State Park, an interpretive learning center with a "hands on" philosophy great for kids.

## South Region

See the wildlife at Newton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area, including the endangered river otter and prairie chicken. Visit Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area in the winter for a good chance to see bald eagle populations.



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